

HOFMANN'S CONFESSION



VOLUME THREE



A PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTING OF THE TRANSCRIPTS OF
SALT LAKE COUNTY PROSECUTORS' INTERVIEWS WITH
CONVICTED FORGER AND MURDERER MARK HOFMANN

INTERVIEWS
CASE OF STATE VS. HOFMANN

FEBRUARY 11, 1987 through MAY 15, 1987

(APRIL 22, 1987)

COPY

1 APRIL 22, 1987 - 1:10 p.m.

2 PRESENT: Mr. Brad Rich, Mr. David Biggs, Mr. Mark Hofmann

3 MR. BIGGS: We were talking about the use of
4 O3 or Ozone to age ink in paper.

5 A Yes, you keep bringing that up. That must be
6 mysterious.

7 Q I'm sorry because I'm not understanding how it
8 is done. What is actually used to create that?

9 A The reason why you don't understand it is I
10 understood from our last meetings comment, was that Ozone
11 cannot be stored, or in other words, you don't put it in a
12 bottle and keep it. I used it while it was being
13 manufactured.

14 Q How did you manufacture it?

15 A With an electric spark.

16 Q Was it in some type of container?

17 A Yes, it was. It was enclosed in glass. It
18 was, the Ozone was manufactured by an electric spark with
19 actually a spoon. This was a simple apparatus, I used a
20 spoon to protect the paper from the sparks and it went
21 around in the container.

22 A Try it and I'll show you. Shall I draw you a
23 diagram?

24 Q Yes, and Mr. Rich can keep it since they've
25 been keeping everything else.

1 A This rectangular shaped vessle is an aquarium,
2 probably about a five gallon aquarium which I can produce,
3 if you are interested in seeing it. On top of it I'm
4 drawing a line which represents a piece of glass which is
5 covering the top of it. Draped along the side and the
6 bottom is another curved line which represents a piece of
7 paper. This is out of scale, incidentally, because it was a
8 lot more compact or crowded within the aquarium than I'm
9 drawing it. Now I'll draw the electric system. Here is a
10 plug that goes into a 110 volt outlet. One of the pieces of
11 wire is going into the aquarium underneath the glass lid.
12 The other one is going into a jar which was a simple bottle
13 such as is used to preserve jam, or whatever. Another wire
14 is coming out of that and under the glass and in to the
15 aquarium. The jar is filled with water and salt, which I'm
16 labeling H2O plus NaCl. The wires come together to form a
17 spark junction and, I can't think of anything else so that's
18 it.

19 Q Now you've drawn it, now tell me how it works.

20 A The water and salt solution keep the circuit
21 breaker or fuse from being blown if the wires touch. I
22 forgot to draw my spoon. The spoon is protecting, it is
23 bent and in a position to, it's a curved line between the
24 spark junction in the diagram. It protects the paper from
25 any stray sparks or whatever, which I don't think would have

1 been a problem but after going through the trouble of
2 manufacturing a document I was usually pretty careful to
3 keep it from getting burned up. The spark in the oxygen
4 atmosphere forms O₃ which is Ozone and the Ozone comes in
5 contact with the paper.

6 Q How did you manipulate the spoon and the spark
7 about the glass over the tank?

8 A Without any particular care. All I did was I
9 formed a spark junction and then stuck the spoon in to
10 protect the paper from that junction. I am not sure I know
11 what you mean. It wasn't tricky to do.

12 Q Did you manipulate the spoon or?

13 A No, I formed the junction so it could be left
14 without being-- What happens is the electricity eventually
15 wears the junction out and you have to replace the wires.

16 Q Could you actually see the visible change in
17 the document while this process was being performed?

18 A Yes, you could see in the printing ink. I
19 believe the comment was made earlier about the change in the
20 ink and the paper which actually isn't the case. I didn't
21 make that comment but in your re-examination you said
22 something about the change in the paper. I saw no change in
23 the paper but I did in the ink and that was a browning or
24 hazing effect.

25 Q Did the paper become more brittle?

1 A Probably, but not that I noticed or, I didn't
2 do any experiments to determine how that was affected.

3 Q Do you want to sign that and give it to Mr.
4 Rich? Just for the record, we would indicate that Mr.
5 Hofmann has given the document to his attorney. One
6 question, did you ever get \$150,000 from Schiller and
7 Wapner?

8 A No.

9 Q We talked about the fact they purchased your
10 option. Did they ever give it to you?

11 A No. The bombing interfered with that
12 transaction.

13 Q Did you use different ink or can you remember
14 using different compositions of inks on the handwritten
15 White Notes?

16 A Yes, I believe I did. I think I mentioned that
17 last time.

18 Q This process of Ozoning your documents and you
19 can answer this yes or no. Was that performed on more than
20 the first Oath?

21 A It was not performed on the second Oath.

22 Q Was it performed on any another documents?

23 A Not that I am charged with.

24 Q That was my next question. So the answer is
25 yes, it was performed on other documents but the next

1 question is no, not on any other documents we've charged?

2 A I am not saying it was or was not performed on
3 another documents. Write that as a note and we'll get to
4 that.

5 MR. RICH: If the question is of the other
6 documents that were charged were there any of those that
7 were, on which Ozone was used?

8 A No, there are not.

9 MR. RICH: Okay, let's leave it at that.
10 Let's let Yengich deal with that in his infinite wisdom.

11 MR. BIGGS: Thank you. I don't have anything
12 further.

13 A Let's see. I had one another comment to make.
14 As I first initially gave you the composition of the ink. I
15 left out originally that there was a shellac, meaning a
16 pinegum-turpentine shellac added in the ink for the first
17 Oath.

18 Q That's interesting because I had notes and
19 there's two different indications on that as far as ink.

20 A What I was going to say was that the ink for
21 the second Oath did not include that and it was not as
22 sophisticated of an ink as far as using old carbon, for
23 example, for the carbon black or whatever. And I don't
24 believe that the second Oath contained that burned shellac
25 mixture combination.

1 Q Did you put that shellac in any ink of a
2 handwritten document that you can recall?

3 A Did I put the shellac in a handwritten ink?

4 Q Yes?

5 A No, it would not have gone in a handwritten
6 ink. Have you determined a recipe for an early ink that had
7 shellac in it that was handwritten?

8 Q No, I was just asking you.

9 A Oh, no. Can I ask Mr. Stott that question I
10 asked you earlier?

11 (Discussion held off the record.)

12 MR. STOTT: Okay, we were on the Josiah Staal
13 Letter. What I would like to do is talk a little bit about
14 some of the things in the letter. If you can tell me.

15 A Do you have a copy of that?

16 Q No we don't. I'm sorry, that's one George had.

17 A That's all right. I think I remember it.

18 Q You talked about a clever treasure, guarded by,
19 the treasure guarded by some clever spirit?

20 A Yes, I remember that phrase.

21 Q Do you remember how you came up with that
22 phrase?

23 A Out of my head. I don't believe there was a
24 source for that.

25 Q But you had some general information and

1 background?

2 A No, I had previously read, specifically I
3 believe at the University of Utah, concerning it in early
4 magic books or whatever, but I would be surprised if I had
5 actually borrowed that particular phrase from any specific
6 source although I would be interested to see if I find any
7 other references to clever spirits in others.

8 Q I can give you about ten.

9 A Okay, well I must have. See, in the
10 composition process it was, of course, a lot of it was
11 subconscious as far as what I previously read. Undoubtedly
12 I could recall, but I don't recall I purposefully copied
13 from any particular source or whatever.

14 Q You were very familiar with such works of
15 Mormons?

16 A I was familiar and had undoubtedly read of
17 clever spirits, if you find mention of clever spirits.

18 Q In the letter it mentions a hazel stick?

19 A Yes, I was familiar with a hazel stick being
20 used in magic.

21 Q There was a different twist in it in that the
22 sticks were to cling together. If you find the treasure the
23 sticks would come together. Do you remember why it was that
24 you put the words together like that?

25 A Yes, I remember reading about the use of hazel

1 sticks in divining processes such as finding finding hidden
2 or buried items, water, treasure, whatnot. In trying to
3 determine the use of a hazel stick I believe I found an
4 early reference that that is how one was used. In other
5 words, I believe I came across several explanations on how a
6 stick would work in your hand.

7 Q A divining stick?

8 A Devining rod would work as far as having the
9 end of it go up or down or wiggle sideways or whatever. I
10 believe that I saw reference, although I cannot be specific
11 as far as where other than it was probably at the University
12 of Utah library concerning having two hazel sticks come
13 together. Even though, again, I don't believe I copied the
14 exact wording, that was my understanding on a possible use
15 and I made up what I considered the appropriate 19th Century
16 language or wording to describe that. Do you have any
17 references for hazel sticks being used that way?

18 Q Not that particular way, no.

19 A Well, it may have been a nonsensical way also
20 as far as my interpretation may have been incorrect.

21 Q We talked before on the Anthon Transcript, of
22 you imitating Joseph Smith's handwriting. On the Stool
23 Letter did you have anymore specific practice or anymore
24 specific information you used in imitating his handwriting?

25 A Yes. By that time I would have had several

1 more sources of his handwriting than what I used in the
2 Anthon Transcript. Probably letters that he wrote to his
3 wife.

4 Q Did you try to make it any different than the
5 earlier one that you had done?

6 A Yes, I believe the handwriting, Joseph Smith's
7 handwriting varies quite a bit according to his moods or
8 whatever. I'm not going to predict what his were or what he
9 had in mind. But most primitive writers, their handwriting
10 doesn't change very much throughout their lifetime. I think
11 I mentioned that before such as Daniel Boone, but his
12 handwriting did vary from day to day or from hour to hour,
13 in my experience, and I was careful not to exactly-- any two
14 Joseph Smith documents I produced I believe the handwriting
15 varied slightly. I didn't fall into any particular pattern
16 as far as the looping of the J, for example, in the signing
17 of his name or other distinctive patterns.

18 Q Do you remember if you specifically misspelled
19 words?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Any of them you misspelled because you
22 misspelled them?

23 A Not that I am aware of but then if I misspelled
24 because I misspelled them, I probably wouldn't be able to
25 tell anyway. In other words, it would look to me like it

1 was spelled right and it wasn't. So unless I later check
2 myself with the dictionary or something.

3 Q Anything else on the Stool Letter that we need
4 to discuss?

5 A I remember, I believe it was that letter, has
6 somewhat of a flourish underneath the signature, which I
7 roughly copied from, I believe an 1832 Joseph Smith letter
8 to his wife.

9 Q Do you remember where that one came from?

10 A I would have had a Xerox of it but I can't say
11 for sure where I got it. May have been from a number of
12 underground sources.

13 Q I think last time we talked about the stamp?

14 A Yes the handstamp.

15 Q The one you made up?

16 A Yes.

17 Q With a plate?

18 A Yes. I produced that from a plate, as I
19 remember. That was a Canandaigua stamp, as I remember.

20 Q Do you remember where you got that stamp from?

21 A It would have been from a photograph of a
22 genuine Canandaigua postmark from any number of stampless
23 cover dealers that I purchase material from.

24 Q Let's talk about the Grandin Contract. You
25 sold it in March of '83?

1 A Do you have that?

2 Q Do you remember how the idea of this came to
3 your mind?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Can you tell us?

6 A Roughly. I remember asking myself what would
7 be a valuable document that I could sell to the Church and
8 concluded that the contract for the first edition Book of
9 Mormon would be worth some money.

10 Q How did you go about formulating the contents
11 and who should be on it and whose handwriting or whatever?

12 A From the various histories of the Church which
13 I had access to. Joseph Smith's history and others. I
14 believe the handwriting approximates Grandin's handwriting,
15 although I believe it was a fairly crude attempt since I did
16 not have Xeroxes of his handwriting but only studied and
17 made notes from a microfilm version, I believe, of one of
18 his journals or day books.

19 Q Do you remember where you got that?

20 A I studied it at the archives of the Church on
21 the second floor of the LDS library and made handwritten
22 notes to get some idea, a semblance of the different ways
23 that he formed his letters.

24 Q So the intent was it was in Grandin's
25 handwriting?

1 A That was the intent.

2 Q How about the signators? How did you come up
3 with the various names?

4 A Grandin I took from that same day book or
5 journal.

6 Q I mean to have these particular people.

7 A Why did I choose those people?

8 Q Joseph Smith, Martin Harris and Grandin?

9 A From the History of the Church I knew that
10 Martin Harris cosigned or put up security with Joseph Smith
11 for the printing of the first edition Book of Mormon
12 performed by E. B. Grandin.

13 Q Now you even have it look to be almost like it
14 is self certified.

15 A Yes, the witness.

16 Q A witness's signature. Why did you put witness
17 signature in?

18 A I found a contract similar to this from the
19 same time period for the printing of a book and that's how I
20 basically took the wording.

21 Q Kind of a horn source then, like a horn book,
22 kind of like a form?

23 A It was an actual contract which was on
24 microfilm in the Genealogical Library of the Church.

25 Q And it had a witness signature?

1 A It had a witness signature.

2 Q You came up with some name. Is it B. Reese?

3 A Supposed to be Reese or something like that.

4 Q Is that someone you saw?

5 A Actually, as I remember, I had a folded letter
6 from that time period from Palmyra from Reese. I determined
7 in the Geneological Library of the Church that Reese was a
8 resident of Palmyra and a large property owner, fairly
9 successful, prominent resident. In fact, I believe his land
10 adjoins some property owned by Martin Harris and since I had
11 his signature on a folded letter it was easy enough to
12 imitate that or put that on this document. And I used him
13 as a witness, signed and sealed in the presence of B Reese.

14 Q The legal language then, are you saying
15 basically came from that other contract?

16 A Yes, the legal language was from another
17 document for the printing of another book.

18 Q Was it from Palmyra or somewhere?

19 A I think it was from New York.

20 Q Can I ask you some specific questions? For
21 example, the date. Do you have any memory of why you came
22 up with that particular date?

23 A If there is a reason it would have been from
24 some history of the Church where I determined that was an
25 approximate or exact date.

1 Q Five thousand copies?

2 A I knew that from the History of the Church.

3 Q Volume to consist of 600 octavo pages?

4 A That was the approximate size of the first
5 edition.

6 Q You knew that from where?

7 A I had previously seen and owned first edition
8 Book of Mormon.

9 Q Edited and closely printed on new type and fine
10 paper?

11 A Again, I was imitating what the approximate
12 wording would be. I can't remember if I saw that
13 specifically on this other contract I'm talking about but I
14 had seen somewhere the description in early printing of
15 closely typed, new type or whatever and used that.

16 Q Completed and delivered on July 1st, 1830?

17 A Yes. That was the approximate date when I
18 believe the total edition would be complete, although copies
19 were available before then, obviously.

20 Q Full edition bound in calf?

21 A Yes, although as I remember the first edition
22 is not in calf. I believe it is bound in sheep.

23 Q Why did you put the calf?

24 A Because in a newspaper ad, Grandin published a
25 newspaper, incidentally. He described or I believe it was

1 an advertisement rather, to purchase calf skin although it
2 may have been an advertisement for books that he had
3 available that were bound in calf. But in those days I knew
4 that there wasn't very much discrimination between a calf
5 and a sheepskin or whatever. Joseph Smith wouldn't have
6 known. It wouldn't have mattered. They were interchanged
7 frequently.

8 Q The sum of \$3,000?

9 A I believe that was also taken from a Church
10 history as far as the amount that was paid.

11 Q And you have some of the terms like terms of
12 one-third at signing, one-third in November, one-third at
13 completion. Did that come from the other document?

14 A That probably came from the other document or I
15 just used it because it sounded good, I don't know.

16 Q And you have damages at \$1,000. Was that from
17 an historical source or from the contract?

18 A That would have been from the other contract
19 I'm sure, as far as on a document like this, an agreement
20 like this there would have been that clause, I believe.

21 Q Where is the paper from?

22 A I can't say for certain but it could have been,
23 it looks similar to the Niles Register paper.

24 Q Are you saying you just can't remember?

25 A Well, in ways it looks similar but in ways it

1 doesn't. I believe it has too rough a texture to have come
2 from the Niles Register. It would have come from another
3 book printed in the early or mid-19th Century.

4 Q What I'm saying is you're looking at it now and
5 saying it didn't come from there, you're saying you don't
6 remember now?

7 A No, I don't remember where it came from but I
8 would say with 90 percent certainty it would have come from
9 a book printed in the early to mid-19th Century from the
10 University of Utah library, an end page from such a book.
11 Probably an 80 percent chance it came from a book on the 4th
12 floor of that library.

13 Q Is that based on your other activities there?

14 A Yes, that's purely statistically based. I
15 don't remember specifically. I don't see a watermark on it.

16 Q How about the ink? Does it compare with the
17 others we talked about?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Did you use the same kind of ink?

20 A Yes.

21 Q The aging process, is it the same?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Anything different that you remember about
24 that?

25 A Let's see, I noticed that I incorporated three

1 wax wafers as seals.

2 Q Any particular reason for that?

3 A Because it was commonly done.

4 Q On contracts or on letters?

5 A Yes. I probably copied that also from other
6 agreements.

7 Q Do you remember where you got the wax?

8 A From a folded letter. I would imagine it's
9 probably genuine early to mid-19th Century wax that was
10 melted on this document.

11 Q Do you remember what kind of pen you used?

12 A Looks to be all a steel nibbed pen except for
13 Joseph Smith's signature which is probably a quill.

14 Q His signature looks bolder and darker than the
15 rest. Any particular reason?

16 A No. I don't know of any particular reason. I
17 don't think I was trying to make a John Hancock out of him.
18 I don't know. It is probably because it's a nibbed pen.

19 Q You had signatures for each of those persons
20 you tried to copy?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Where did you have the signature of Martin
23 Harris at that time?

24 A It would have come from, it would have been
25 actually a combination from three different signatures,

1 different attributes of each signature being incorporated in
2 this one so as to make it indistinguishable as far as any
3 signature, as far as being a trace or an exact copy. Those
4 signatures would have come from the Church Historian's
5 Office, their library. I believe property bonds or
6 documents.

7 Q Do you remember if you sized it or washed it or
8 anything like that?

9 A I don't remember, but I probably did.

10 Q And the folding of it, was there any folding
11 involved? Did you do anything specifically on that?

12 A Yes, I probably folded it as I had seen such a
13 document folded before. Looks like it is folded in half
14 lengthwise and then three folds vertically.

15 Q Did you do anything else to the paper?

16 A It would have been trimmed, probably using a
17 razor blade and straight edge. The ink is quite cracked.
18 There's an impression that appears to have been made with an
19 uninked, with uninked type which was actually an uninked
20 plate which I had manufactured of E. B. Grandin's ad for
21 various printed items.

22 Q How did that get on there and why?

23 A I embossed it on there more to make the paper
24 appear to be a piece of scrap paper which was still good
25 enough to be used from the Grandin work shop or printing

1 office.

2 Q Was this to be something like a watermark or
3 trademark or something or what?

4 A No, it would have been when Grandin was setting
5 up type, it would have either looked like another piece of
6 paper was on top of this and received the --, well, this
7 document also received the impression but the other would
8 have received the ink, the paper on top of it. Either that
9 or it was a dry run through the press as Grandin was setting
10 the type. In other words, to make it appear like it came
11 from the Grandin work shop. It was a document printed by
12 Grandin.

13 Q Did you ever get any paper from Grandin's--

14 A No, it did not come from Grandin's work shop.

15 Q Had you ever been there, at this time or
16 before?

17 A I believe I was there before and after, yes.

18 Q Did you ever get any paper there?

19 A No. The paper I'm fairly certain came from the
20 University of Utah Library and I remember specifically
21 making the plate that I used to make this impression to make
22 it look like the paper did come from there.

23 Q Did you have some source you were using to make
24 the plate?

25 A It may have come from a newspaper ad but I

1 don't remember. I take that back. I do remember that I,
2 how I made the art work and that was that I took a Xerox of
3 the type from Grandin, in other words, from his newspaper
4 and used that type to composite this ad. In other words,
5 it's not a Xerox of a specific ad which I made a plate from
6 but it is an ad that I composed from Grandin's type.

7 Q Now, what you did is you took the picture of--

8 A In other words, I knew what an ad might have
9 been like or had seen one from another printer as far as
10 advertising their business. I don't remember that I saw an
11 ad like this specifically from Grandin but from another
12 printer and I composed it with Grandin's name using his
13 type, cutting up the letters similar to.

14 Q How did you know what his type was?

15 A The type would have come, it would,-- it was a
16 Xerox from a newspaper which Grandin printed from the same
17 time period.

18 Q How did you obtain that?

19 A Where did I obtain a that?

20 Q Yes?

21 A From the Church Historian's Office. I remember
22 there was a couple articles in that that I fained interest
23 in which I asked Don Schmidt to Xerox for me and went with
24 him into the back room there where they have their Xerox
25 machine and he copied it off for me and handed me the

1 copies and those Xeroxes are what I used to compose the
2 artwork with, taking the context of the ad from another
3 printer's ad.

4 Q Now, is there anything else about the paper,
5 the ink, the embossing or the aging process you want to say?

6 A I notice there are water stains. Is that what
7 you want me to say?

8 Q I don't want you to say anything. I just
9 wondered if you had something.

10 A No. I believe I already discussed how I put
11 water stains on documents when I was discussing the Emma
12 Smith Hymnel.

13 Q And this contains some of those manufactured
14 water--

15 A This contains some of those water stains, makes
16 it look old.

17 Q Did you ever have any contact with any members
18 of the Grandin family. Any descendants?

19 A Not real but I pretended to.

20 Q What did you pretend?

21 A I used the Grandin family as the source for
22 where I obtained this document. As I remember, you could
23 check in my phone records, but it seems like I made a phone
24 call to a Grandin person back there someplace, back east,
25 which another historian gave me, and I believe that was the

1 Grandin where the Church obtained the diary which I,
2 concerning the printing of the Book of Mormon which I used
3 as a handwriting source in composing this.

4 Q So you got copies of that from the Church?

5 A Yes. No, I didn't actually obtain copies other
6 than what I copied by hand, as I remember as far as looking
7 at--, I did not see, as I remember, the original journal. I
8 saw the microfilm.

9 Q Didn't you tell a story something to the effect
10 that you had purchased or obtained an earlier journal from
11 Grandin?

12 A Yes, that was part of the story. I don't
13 remember if I said I had actually purchased it or if I had
14 just said that I knew where the journal was and I was going
15 to purchase it or whatever.

16 Q But you didn't have one?

17 A But no, I didn't manufacture or didn't
18 anticipate manufacturing that or obtaining it. I didn't
19 know anything about it. I believe that the journal the
20 Church has is from the early 1830s but I don't believe that
21 it--, I believe the only reference to the Book of Mormon in
22 there is where Grandin said he was selling some copies or
23 something like that. But the journal that I invented
24 contained day by day accounts of where he was in the
25 printing process as he was publishing the Book of Mormon.

1 But that journal did not exist and as far as I know doesn't
2 exist.

3 Q Before you made the document did you have any
4 discussions with someone you wanted to sell it to or did
5 those discussions come up after you made the document or can
6 you just tell me the chronology?

7 A It is possible I would have primed Don Schmidt
8 to its existence before making it but I can't remember if I
9 talked to him before making it or if it was all conducted
10 after it was manufactured.

11 Q How did you go about selling it?

12 A The way to determine that would be to find out
13 from Don Schmidt's records when I first mentioned it to him
14 and find out when I actually brought it in for him to see.
15 I don't believe that I would have, if there was any space of
16 time in between there, like a week or two, I believe that I
17 would have talked to him before making it because I would
18 have taken it in soon after it was forged. In other words,
19 I wasn't that patient as far as to have it done and sitting
20 in my home or whatever before offering it to the Church.

21 Q Do you remember who sold it to specifically?

22 A Yes, I believe that it was initially offered
23 to Don Schmidt and that I accompanied him and probably G.
24 Homer Durham to the Administration Building and showed it--
25 Let's see, was that this document? Yes, I believe that I

1 showed this document to President Hinkley.

2 Q Was it sold then?

3 A Oh, yes. In fact, I remember that I did show
4 it to President Hinkley and I obtained a check for it.

5 Q How much? If you don't remember--

6 A 15 thousand, was it?

7 Q Well, if you don't remember--

8 A I don't remember, but it would have been
9 several thousand.

10 Q Was this the biggest sale to the Church?

11 A I would guess around 15 thousand. That's what
12 my guess would be/

13 MR. STOTT: Just generally what did you tell
14 Schmidt, Hinkley and Homer Durham generally about where you
15 obtained it?

16 A I told them that it came from the Grandin
17 family. I probably told them that I had received it
18 personally on a visit back east or whatever. I don't
19 remember. And I'm sure I wouldn't have been too specific as
20 to who that individual would have been. I believe that I
21 also mentioned at that time the imaginary journal which we
22 were talking about.

23 Q Anything else you want to say about this
24 particular document?

25 A Not that I--

1 MR. BIGGS: How much did you think it was
2 worth when you where producing it? Any ideas?

3 A Seems like it was whatever I sold it for. I
4 believe I named a price and received it, you know. There
5 wouldn't have been any negotiation involved or whatever.

6 Q So there was no dickering?

7 A No.

8 Q Were you after cash or trade or can you
9 remember?

10 A Most of my transactions were trade. Since I
11 accepted cash for it I obviously was after cash.

12 Q Can we take a break for a second?

13 (Break from 2:05 to 2:10 p.m.)

14 MR. STOTT: Let's talk about the General
15 Dunham Letter. Can you tell us the origination of that
16 document, the idea behind it?

17 A Yes. Joseph Smith was in Carthage Jail when a
18 riot broke out in front of the jail and was anxious to have
19 the Nauvoo Legion protect him. That is the theoretical
20 reason behind it. Of course, I forged it.

21 Q Why was it you decided to come up with this
22 particular document?

23 A Just like the others. I asked myself what
24 could I make today that will bring in some money and that
25 seemed like a fairly important document.

1 Q Was there any particular conversation with
2 Brent Ashworth that spurred this on?

3 A No. I think in the preliminary hearing he made
4 some comment about that but, let's see, how do I want to
5 answer this.

6 Q Answer it the truthful way, whatever you do.

7 A I will. I believe that I previously had
8 mentioned it to Brent Ashworth and he had expressed an
9 interest in it. I don't believe that he brought up the
10 subject or discussed it initially.

11 Q Was your purpose monetary?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Why this particular aspect? You know, here's
14 Joseph Smith calling out the Legion.

15 A Well, his last letter would obviously be worth
16 a considerable amount of money.

17 Q Why to Dunham? Why not a letter to somebody
18 else?

19 A There where rumors in the history of the Church
20 that Joseph Smith addressed the Nauvoo Legion and asked for
21 protection. Dunham was, I believe, in command of the Legion
22 at that time and I felt like it was appropriate that Joseph
23 Smith would have addressed the man in charge.

24 Q Are you saying there is some rumors this letter
25 may exist?

1 A Yes.

2 Q So you made the rumors come true. Was there
3 any desire to maybe kind of cast some dispersions on Joseph
4 Smith's character or anything like that by creating this
5 letter?

6 A I don't see how it would cast dispersions on
7 his character, and that wasn't my intent. Just let me read
8 it.

9 Q What I meant by that is the traditional
10 viewpoint is Joseph Smith kind of went like a lamb to his
11 grave and was calm and peaceful and was accepting it but
12 here you turn and wait a minute, the guy is kicking the
13 whole way and wanted help.

14 A Well, I don't know if that really is the common
15 viewpoint. Well, yes it is because it said that he went
16 like a lamb to the slaughter. In other words, he died in a
17 gun fight. In other words, he wounded three people with a
18 handgun at the time he was shot.

19 Q I just wanted to know your reasons for doing
20 this. If that was any part of it or not?

21 A No. My personal opinion is any man would do
22 what he could to protect himself. That is the moral thing
23 to do, seems to me.

24 MR. STOTT: You said you had heard these
25 rumors. There seemed to be some historical background. Do

1 you remember specifically where you would have got this
2 information about a letter?

3 A Yes, I believe that there is a book by
4 Steinhouse which mentions it which was footnoted in a book
5 by Dawn Hill entitled Joseph Smith, the First Mormon.
6 As I remember Dawn Hill is the first source that I remember
7 for that rumor and I believe she footnotes Steinhouse's
8 book and I believe that there where also some journal
9 references I saw at the Church Historian's Office to that
10 same effect.

11 Q Do you remember if you got any information from
12 Brodie's book?

13 A Brodie's book, seems like it also discusses it.
14 Seems like I would have read several sources and I'm sure I
15 would have read Brodie's book. I can't remember for sure if
16 she discusses it but I wouldn't be surprised.

17 Q At the time you where creating this document
18 did you do any research into what letters he actually wrote?
19 What were known?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And do you remember what you found?

22 A I took some pains to locate some of the other
23 documents Joseph Smith wrote in Carthage Jail or that
24 Willard Richards wrote. The paper is the approximate width
25 of paper that was used in the Carthage, Jail, although it's

1 been cut off. In other words, it's not as long. I also
2 imitated the lines on the paper to match the width of the
3 lines on the paper that was used in the jail.

4 Q Let me ask you this: Where did you see these
5 other letters?

6 A At the LDS Church Historian's Office.

7 Q Did you see the letters or copies?

8 A I believe I saw both. I believe I saw some
9 actual letters which Don Schmidt showed me and perhaps even
10 Xeroxes, I'm not sure, in Joseph Smith's files in the vault
11 at the Historian's Office in the Church Archives.

12 Q Did you ever go to the RLDS library or
13 archives?

14 A Yes, I have been there.

15 Q Do you remember doing any research there on
16 this particular document?

17 A No, I don't believe I did. I know obviously of
18 the letter that Joseph Smith wrote on the same day to his
19 wife but I haven't seen the original. I've seen a Xerox
20 copy and seen a copy of that in a book but I don't remember.
21 I think I would have remembered if I would have seen the
22 original of that in their museum. I don't believe I did.

23 MR. RICH: Of what?

24 A The original letter that Joseph Smith wrote to
25 his wife on June 27, 1844.

1 MR. STOTT: Do you remember actually seeing
2 any of the two letters that Joseph Smith wrote from Carthage
3 Jail that is in existence today?

4 A No. All I saw, and what I was talking about
5 when I said I copied the lines and spacing of the lines,
6 was the similar paper but written by Willard Richards on
7 similar paper as the paper Joseph Smith used which is in
8 possession of the LDS Church. In other words, Richards, in
9 Carthage Jail, wrote quite a bit of stuff that is in
10 possession of the LDS Church.

11 Q Did you ever, just while we are talking about
12 the RLDS Archives, did you do any of your research on any of
13 these documents there?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you take anything from it?

16 A Any end leaves?

17 Q Anything from their library?

18 A No, nor did I ever take anything from the LDS
19 library as far as end leaves or whatnot.

20 Q Or documents or letters?

21 A Or documents, no, I never stole documents.

22 Q Did you do any research into General Dunham and
23 his circumstances around his life or what his position was
24 at the time, or whatever?

25 A Yes, I would have done all of that research.

1 Q Do you remember what you found out?

2 A It seems like Dunham, as I remember, went on an
3 expedition from Winter Quarters a couple years after this
4 and never returned. And it seems like there's a rumor that
5 I heard that he may have been blood atoned for not following
6 the advice of this letter. In other words, there are rumors
7 that some people in the Church believe that he had received
8 such a letter and had failed to act on it/

9 Q When you composed the letter did you have a
10 specific person in mind that you were going to sell it to?

11 A Yes. First let me say this is a very poor
12 forgery and it was quickly done. It was done because I was
13 pressed for funds and knew that I could get them immediately
14 and I succeeded in doing that.

15 Q When you say poor, why is it a poor forgery in
16 your estimation?

17 A I could show you a lot of bad things about it.
18 It is not up to the quality of some of my better attempts,
19 if I can say that humbly.

20 Q You're talking about the handwriting, or what?

21 A Yes. The handwriting is poor, the ink is
22 certainly poor. I didn't make any attempts, as I would have
23 done with more time, to imitate the ink that I saw Willard
24 Richards use in the jail. Any expert will look at it and
25 tell you it is a crappy job. Let me choose a better word.

1 Q That describes it.

2 A Okay.

3 Q Who was it to be sold to?

4 A It was sold, actually before being complete, to
5 Dick Marks in Arizona who, I think who wired the money to my
6 account actually before I had completed forging the
7 document, and I soon thereafter sat down and wrote it out
8 and sent it to him.

9 Q So the document was specifically created for
10 him?

11 A Yes.

12 A Were you relatively sure in believing that once
13 he had it, it wouldn't be looked at carefully?

14 A Yes and no. Not really because I knew that it
15 is an important document and is bound to be looked at. I
16 felt like it would fool the experts in the Church,
17 specifically Dean Jesse. My best forgery attempts are
18 obviously in national-type material rather than church
19 material, for that reason.

20 Q How much did you sell it for?

21 A I was desperate for money and so not as much as
22 it is certainly worth. I can't remember exactly. It seems
23 like five or 10 thousand or something.

24 MR. BIGGS: Does 20 thousand sound about
25 right?

1 A Was it 20 thousand? Yes, \$20,000, I believe it
2 was.

3 Q You enclosed with that a letter giving a story
4 behind it; do you remember that letter?

5 A Vaguely. This would have been a letter where
6 I gave a provenance and quoted from the rumor sources that I
7 heard concerning the letter, such as Huntington and Dunham.

8 Q How did you come up with Huntington, William V.
9 or William B. Huntington and their family?

10 A Huntington was part of the rumor and there was
11 also an advantage because there where Huntingtons in Utah
12 County who had been known to have sold early Church
13 material.

14 Q How did you know that?

15 A Through Steve Barnett, I believe was the
16 purchaser of that material.

17 Q But the rumor you had heard had Huntington's
18 name associated with Dunham?

19 A Yes. I heard rumors, I believe from a journal
20 source, may have been Huntington's journal, that he
21 suspected Dunham of not following through on an order, on
22 this order. I believe that was the same source which
23 suggested the possibility that Dunham had possibly been put
24 under, a favorite Mormon phrase, for not fulfilling the
25 order or at least it is a favorite, blood atonement phrase.

1 Q You say he is said to have found it a few days
2 after the martyrdom, lying in the street near the Nauvoo
3 Seventies Hall. Is that part of the rumor or is this
4 something you made up?

5 A I believe the rumor was it was found in the
6 street by the Seventies Hall. I don't believe the rumor
7 included who it was that picked it up but I am not positive
8 on that.

9 Q How did you come up with that?

10 A I believe Huntington, possibly his journal
11 mentioned the document, in that he had, in other words, I
12 felt it could be established that Huntington knew about it.

13 Q Did you do any research into Huntington's line
14 or did you rely upon the stuff from Barnett?

15 A I didn't do any research and I didn't claim it
16 came from the same Huntington as he got his stuff from.
17 Barnett that is. Again, it is always a good idea to be
18 evasive as far as the exact source.

19 Q Do you want to comment on the next to the last
20 paragraph, where you refer to a little gratuitous sentiment?

21 A Yes. It was probably written while I was
22 thinking of the sad state of Joseph Smith when he was
23 confined in jail knowing that the mob was forming outside of
24 the jail. The document is a great item, assuming of course
25 that it is genuine, and it goes without saying that he would

1 have felt helpless and, despair is the words I used.

2 Q Did you include that just to help? You've
3 already sold the letter.

4 A That paragraph relates somewhat to what you're
5 asking me for as far as if I wrote it to try to make Joseph
6 Smith look bad.

7 Q No, I'm just wondering why you threw that
8 paragraph in. Is that something to kind of help add to the
9 authenticity or feeling of the letter?

10 A Not as much the authenticity as to the feeling
11 or importance of it, yes.

12 Q Do you remember where you got the paper?

13 A Most likely from the University of Utah
14 Library. Possibly from the Niles Register.

15 Q And you said you put some lines in it. How did
16 you go about doing that?

17 A With an ink pen the same way I put lines in the
18 Salamander Letter.

19 Q We haven't got to that yet.

20 A Oh, we haven't talked about the Salamander
21 Letter. It would have been with an ink pen with ink, a
22 grayish type of an ink.

23 Q Did you use a ruler or what?

24 A Yes, I would have used a ruler and pen.

25 Q They're real faint. Was that the purpose? Was

1 that the idea, the lines?

2 A Possibly in the original, in the documents that
3 I saw they weren't that faint, but then this document has
4 been washed which may have made it more faint.

5 Q Did you wash it?

6 A In other words, when I drew the lines they
7 probably would have been darker but then they faded.

8 Q Did you wash the document?

9 A Yes.

10 Q After you had created it?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Why did you wash it?

13 A In an attempt to hide some of the defects as
14 far as the, to fade out the ink.

15 Q The ink you used, was it similar to the ones we
16 have been talking about, composition?

17 A Yes.

18 Q The aging process, hydrogen peroxide, same way?

19 A Yes. Probably hydrogen peroxide was used
20 rather than ammonia.

21 Q Nibb pen? Feather? Do you remember?

22 A Steel pen.

23 Q Do you remember, did you have to cut that down,
24 the paper size?

25 A Yes, I would have cut the paper to conform with

1 the paper that I saw widthwise, and it would have been
2 shortened lengthwise. It would been a full letter sheet
3 when it was written and Joseph Smith would have conserved
4 the paper or it would have been torn later.

5 Q Anything about the handwriting? Did you try to
6 change the handwriting in any way now dealing with the late
7 Joseph Smith?

8 A Yes. I tried to make it look like he was
9 nervous. It would be the only variation that I would have
10 purposefully made between this and the other Joseph Smith
11 letters from that day.

12 Q Anything else you want to add about the paper,
13 ink, handwriting?

14 A Not that I can remember or can think of.

15 Q How did Brent Ashworth obtain the letter?

16 A He obtained it from me after it was acquired by
17 Deseret Book Company from Dick Marks.

18 Q Why did Deseret Book acquire it?

19 A Deseret Book acquired it for me. Ashworth had
20 expressed an interest in it and more than that, he was
21 disturbed that he didn't get a chance at it after we had
22 previously talked about it.

23 Q Why didn't you sell it to Ashworth in the first
24 place?

25 A I had previously also spoken of the letter to

1 Dick Marks as well as to Brent Ashworth and he expressed an
2 interest in it and I knew that Brent Ashworth, or rather
3 with Dick Marks I would have immediate money rather than
4 trying to work out a trade or whatever.

5 Q Why did you go to the trouble of getting
6 Deseret Book to get it back so you could sell it to Brent?
7 Was it money that you wanted or some other reason?

8 A No, it would have been because Ashworth wanted
9 it and I felt like he should have it.

10 Q Why didn't you deal directly with Marks
11 yourself?

12 A Because the negotiations were already started
13 by Deseret Book Company and that's bad professionalism to
14 cut in on somebody else's deal.

15 Q The price really went up?

16 A Yes, the price paid to Marks went up and to
17 Deseret Book went up but it dropped dramatically when
18 Ashworth purchased it.

19 Q How much did you pay Deseret Book?

20 A I believe it was \$100,000.

21 Q Do you remember paying them the full amount?

22 A Yes, I believe I gave them a cashiers check for
23 that amount plus tax.

24 Q One time?

25 A Or more than once. I may have made an earlier

1 payment of a few thousand dollars on it but I remember that
2 it was mostly, if not exclusively one large check.

3 Q Do you remember where that money came from?

4 A Yes, it came from the Wilding transaction.
5 Yes, I'm sure of that, that it came from the Wilding
6 transaction.

7 Q And so you bought it for 100 thousand?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And turned around and sold it to Brent for
10 what?

11 A Let's see, it was partially a trade for
12 documents which he overvalued, incidentally, in the
13 preliminary hearing. I don't remember exactly what those
14 documents were but that is how we negotiated is we always,
15 he would say at a certain price for the documents that he
16 had and then I would raise the value of my documents to
17 match. We may want that off the record.

18 Q There where three letters to Joseph Smith and
19 one to Brigham Young, about \$18,000?

20 A Yes, I believe that was right.

21 Q Which where the letters, do you remember?

22 A One of the Joseph Smith's would have been
23 another---, well--

24 Q Which where the two letters; do you remember?

25 A One of the Joseph Smith letters was one that I

1 had previously sold to Ashworth.

2 Q Was it the Plow Letter?

3 A Yes, the Plow Letter to Emma Smith.

4 Q What was the other one?

5 A The other was another Joseph Smith letter.

6 Q Yes, we were trying to get your memory of it.

7 A I don't really remember. See, this was all
8 during the time period where I was not, that I have a good
9 memory, but I had a particularly bad memory of these events.

10 Q Weren't you in a pretty frenzied state at this
11 time?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Weren't you pretty desperate for money?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Why in the world would you sell it to him,
16 after you paid \$100,000, did you sell it to him for \$18,000
17 plus trade?

18 A For the basic reason that the deal had already
19 been struck and I had never backed out of a deal.

20 Q But you were hard up for money.

21 A I know. I was desperate as can be.

22 MR. BIGGS: People were saying like you may go
23 to jail if you don't get some money and you paid Deseret
24 Book \$116,000 and sold it for documents and 18?

25 A I gave Deseret Book Company the check, as I

1 remember, the day that I received the money from the Wilding
2 transaction. Then the next day is when I was threatened
3 with going to jail but it was too late. I had given them
4 the money and couldn't get it back.

5 Q But Christensen had done that previously when
6 you couldn't come up with the money for the bank. Hadn't
7 you already written a bogus check for \$188,000 to First
8 Interstate Bank by September of '85?

9 A Yes.

10 Q They were a little upset about that; weren't
11 they?

12 A Yes, but they weren't-- My anticipation was
13 that in two weeks I would have money from the Oath there and
14 that would solve the problems.

15 Q Still thought it was going to be over a
16 million?

17 A If not over a million at least sizable enough
18 for selling a portion of it. See this is when I had entered
19 in to the \$150,000 negotiations and all that for half of it
20 so I felt like I could take care of First Interstate Bank.

21 MR. STOTT: Was there ever any intent on your
22 part to get back the Plow Letter or the other letters for
23 any particular reason?

24 A No. He offered those letters and that's what I
25 took.

1 Q You weren't trying to maybe cover up anything
2 you had done before or trying to obtain a so-called
3 McClellin Collection by obtaining those?

4 A No.

5 Q Do you remember what the other letter was or
6 the third letter was?

7 A I think those letters ended up going to Wilding
8 as collateral; didn't they?

9 MR. BIGGS: I don't know. I think they might
10 have ended up with Deseret Book.

11 A Oh, yes. I remember that.

12 MR. STOTT: You intimated one of them was a
13 forgery. Do you want to tell us which one?

14 A One of them may have been a forgery.

15 Q Do you want to tell us which ones they may have
16 been?

17 A No. Probably not at this time. I didn't say I
18 forged it. I mean, I've handled documents before that were
19 forged that I did not forge.

20 Q But you passed along?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Without telling someone they were forged?

23 A Not in the Mormon field. But this one was big.

24 MR. BIGGS: Have you ever assisted other
25 forgers?

1 A No, but I could tell that a document wasn't
2 right when I had purchased other documents before, but no, I
3 have never assisted or known of any other, personally I
4 haven't known of another forger. But in dealing with
5 documents, I have purchased documents which I felt were
6 forged.

7 Q Let me get this straight--

8 A None of which I have been charged with,
9 incidentally.

10 Q You have owed, at this time, September '85, you
11 owe hundreds of thousands of dollars to several people?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And you're telling us that since you made a
14 deal with Brent Ashworth to get him this forged General
15 Dunham Letter that you went ahead and paid Deseret Book
16 \$116,000 and only got back three documents and \$18,000.
17 Just because you had made the deal with Ashworth you felt
18 duty bound to go through with it?

19 A As unreasonable as it sounds, that is the--

20 MR. STOTT: It does.

21 MR. BIGGS: You just defrauded people out of
22 hundreds of thousands of dollars; Wilding, Pinock, First
23 Interstate Bank, Rust. We could go on forever. And you're
24 telling us the only reason you lost approximately \$80,000
25 was because you were duty bound to give them that document?

1 A What other explanation is there?

2 Q You tell me.

3 A There isn't because that was the reason. Like
4 I say, or like I had said, the money was paid to Deseret
5 Book the day before I was threatened with fraud on the
6 Wilding transaction. I anticipated money coming from the
7 Oath.

8 Q That sounds strange. You showing up at
9 Ashworth's door two days before you kill two people and give
10 him a bum check for \$5,000.00. That doesn't make any sense
11 either; does it, to you?

12 MR. STOTT: Tell us about that.

13 A A lot of times when I wrote checks I was
14 anticipating that I would have the money by the time the
15 checks went through my bank and it just never happened. In
16 fact, that was part of the case with the bogus check to
17 First Interstate Bank is I kept on, in my conversations with
18 Schiller, being assured that deal was going to go through
19 at any time and anticipating that it was only weeks away,
20 for months on end.

21 Q Can we get back to that situation with Brent.
22 Do you remember when you went down on that Sunday evening
23 and showed up and gave him two checks, had to write out two
24 separate--

25 MR. BIGGS: October 14th?

1 A Yes, I believe it was for a document. In fact,
2 it was, I can remember the specific document, it was for
3 the, it's an elder's license from Far West which he had
4 given me on consignment.

5 MR. BIGGS: That's all true, but why did you
6 do it? Why did you write him a check?

7 A Because I thought that would--, I had
8 frequently written him checks that didn't pass or didn't
9 clear the first time but went through the second time and I
10 was thinking that would get him off my back as far as making
11 payment on that consignment by giving him a check and
12 telling him to hold on it to it for a while.

13 Q By that time you had already bought some bomb
14 parts?

15 A Now just a second. I want to clarify all of
16 this, how all of this fraud and stuff took place, if I can.
17 My view is, when I forged a document and sold it, were that
18 I was not cheating that person that I was selling it to
19 because the document would never be detected as being a
20 fraud. Obviously, if I would have known they would some day
21 be detected, I wouldn't have done it.

22 Q Are you saying they could probably get as much
23 as you were getting and you didn't feel badly?

24 A I didn't feel like I was cheating them. I'm
25 tell you how I rationalized it. Also, when I took money

1 such as from Rust or Pinock, it wasn't with the intention to
2 never pay it back. It was always my intention that I would
3 make good on it. My idea, at this time, was that I would be
4 able to making good on it through the Oath of a Freeman.

5 In fact, in your closing arguments in the
6 preliminary hearing, one of the last things you said hit it
7 right on the nail, and that is that a conman perpetually
8 procrastinates. Or in other words, his intention, or at
9 least my intention, wasn't to defraud them of their money.
10 It was more to use their money when I needed it and then pay
11 them back with interest to make it worth their while, which
12 is something that for years has taken place in my
13 transactions with Al Rust, for example. Of course, those
14 aren't charge related.

15 MR. STOTT: Some of them were, like the Lucy
16 Mack Smith Letter?

17 A That's right.

18 Q In fact, wasn't it also with, there was one
19 other letter you did that to. Was it the Salamander Letter
20 or was at the Stool Letter?

21 A There where dozens of times when I used Rust's
22 money for a bogus transactions and paid him back with
23 interest. So he was happy and I had the money when I needed
24 it.

25 Q You came to a point about your rationalization.

1 A Yes. This is a lot more involved than how I've
2 just portrayed it.

3 Q Were you ever to the point, and I get this from
4 a story in your early childhood, and I don't know if it is
5 true or not, about you and the coin and you change the dates
6 and you send it back and supposedly it comes back as an
7 authentic coin?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Is that real or a Hofmann rumor?

10 A This is a true incident.

11 Q And I'm wondering--

12 A A coin dealer-- I'll describe it to you. This
13 is when I first became interested in electroplating and the
14 idea was to electroplate a mint mark on a coin to make it
15 more valuable to a collector. The mint mark being an
16 initial for where the coin was struck. What I did was I
17 masked the coin photographically to leave only the part of
18 the metal on the coin where the mint mark was going to be.
19 For example, the letter D. Then I electroplated on that
20 coin the bare spot on the metal, a D, and built it up to a
21 certain height of a mint mark and I had a coin dealer that--
22 this was a particularly valuable coin incidentally, that
23 couldn't believe that I could own such a valuable coin in my
24 youth. I think I was only 15 years old. The coin being
25 worth thousands of dollars even back in those days. Anyway

1 a coin dealer sent it in to have it examined and it ended up
2 going to the Treasury Department where it was pronounced
3 genuine. And my feeling was that if the Treasury Department
4 or I should say my rationalization was that if the Treasury
5 Department pronounces it genuine that it is genuine by
6 definition

7 MR. STOTT: That's what I wanted to ask you.
8 Is that the same kind of rationalization you used on these
9 documents?

10 A Yes. I never would have done them, obviously,
11 if I thought they could be detected. I thought I was
12 clever enough to avoid that, which obviously I wasn't.

13 Q If the expert says they're a real document then
14 the people who bought them really aren't hurt?

15 A Yes, that's right. And that's also when I lost
16 respect for forensic examination, I guess.

17 Q Early on?

18 A In my youth when I saw that, when I made up a
19 process by which I could fool the Treasury Department.
20 This was a overtraced and I believe I pointed out last time
21 when you had just the address leaf that I believe that I had
22 traced that. The letter portion of that genuine document is
23 missing. Probably I destroyed it but I believe that there's
24 a good chance since I traced the address leaf, that I would
25 have traced the other part of the document as far as the

1 wording of the text, other than, of course, the Peter
2 Whitmer, David Whitmer signatures which I added. That's
3 all I wanted to say.

4 Q Did we talk about the David Whitmer to Walter
5 Conrad Letter?

6 A I hope you are not going to leave me without
7 going into my rationalization further because I can do a lot
8 better job as far as how I rationalized myself.

9 Q If you have something more to add, whatever.

10 A No. We'll talk about it later. A lot of it
11 deals with my rationalization for the homicides which we'll
12 get into.

13 Q Did we talk about the-- You have the Whitmer to
14 Conrad?

15 A Yes. No. I can't remember if we did or not.
16 If we did it would have just about a Xerox I saw because I
17 don't remember recently seeing the original.

18 Q Dave Whitmer to Walter Conrad. This was an
19 1982 document which-- Is that a forged document?

20 A Yes, I forged it.

21 Q What is the origin or idea behind this
22 document?

23 A Asking myself what a valuable document would be
24 and concluding that one written by one of the three
25 witnesses to the Book of Mormon concerning their witness to

1 the Book of Mormon would be worth some money.

2 Q The motive was money?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Anything else involved?

5 A Basically the motive for all of these is money.

6 Q Did you do some research and try to find out
7 what he would have said, what the contents should be?

8 A Yes, I would have researched, interviews or
9 whatever of Martin Harris and his statements.

10 Q Do you remember any specific-- You said Martin
11 Harris, this is Whitmer.

12 A Excuse me, David Whitmer.

13 Q There was a Martin Harris one too?

14 A Yes.

15 Q But this is the Whitmer one.

16 A Yes. I would have researched that, his
17 statements. I remember specifically there was, I believe an
18 1887 publication ad, I believe in Christ, I believe I would
19 have used material out of that and other interview sources.
20 The handwriting would have come from a Xerox that I had of a
21 genuine letter. Walter Conrad, I believe that I looked that
22 up in a Salt Lake City directory from 1873, probably.

23 Q Who was he? Was he supposed to be somebody
24 important?

25 A No. Just nobody. I believe he was a clerk

1 that worked for ZCMI at the time but somebody that may have
2 written to the witnesses asking for their written
3 testimonies. There were autograph collectors even back in
4 those days.

5 Q Was the handwriting supposed to be in Whitmer's
6 handwriting?

7 A Yes, it is supposed to.

8 Q Or is it supposed to be the son who wrote the
9 body of the letter?

10 A The only letter that I had of his and the only
11 letter that I took the handwriting from was very short,
12 probably half the words of this or less, so I didn't have
13 much to work from as far as the handwriting.

14 Q But your intent was to make it look like the
15 whole letter was from Whitmer?

16 A Was in the same handwriting, correct. Now it
17 may have been the letter I was copying was in his son's
18 hand. I hope not since I sold this as his.

19 Q Do you remember where you got the paper?

20 A It is probably an end sheet, probably from the
21 University of Utah Library. Probably lined by me.

22 Q How did you do that?

23 A With blue ink and a pen.

24 Q Ruler?

25 A And a ruler, yes.

1 Q Ink. Now this is a later date, this is 1870s.
2 What about the ink on it?

3 A The ink would have been the same basic
4 composition, iron gall ink was used through the 19th
5 Century.

6 Q Aging process?

7 A I would guess, let's see, this was in 1982?

8 Q Yes.

9 A Looking at it I would guess it was ammonia,
10 just because the ink is more of a golden color, but it could
11 be hydrogen peroxide.

12 Q You're saying you used ammonia sometimes and
13 sometimes hydrogen peroxide?

14 A Yes. I already went into all of that, I think.

15 Q And do you remember what you wrote it with as
16 far as an instrument?

17 A It would have been a steel pen.

18 Q Do you remember if you sized it or washed it?

19 A Whenever I used pens I always tried to imitate
20 the kind of pen that I thought the year would have used or
21 trying to copy from another document. This is the same kind
22 of pen I would have used for an Abraham Lincoln document
23 from but I can't remember the exact name of the pen, but I
24 could point it out to you if I was at Reuel's Photo Blue.

25 Q Do you remember if you washed it or sized it?

1 A I don't remember.

2 Q Do you have those samples that he's been
3 furnishing us? He has been writing down samples of the
4 handwriting. Could be get a handwriting sample of this one?

5 A Yours very truly, David Whitmer?

6 Q One of the lines?

7 A Besides yours very truly?

8 Q Yes. A line and yours very truly and then
9 your name and date on it like you have been doing.

10 A I'll do, in regards to my testimony.

11 Q Sounds good. When you wrote it did you have an
12 idea who you were going to sell it to?

13 A Either the Church or Brent Ashworth were my
14 main Mormon buyers. I believe I that ended up selling to
15 the Church, as I remember.

16 Q Do you remember the circumstances of your sale?

17 A Let's see, I think this is the document that I
18 came down on my price. I believe that the Mormon Church
19 agreed to pay \$10,000.00 for it or I should say President
20 Hinkley agreed to pay \$10,000.00 for it, although I am not
21 sure I talked to him directly. It may have been he agreed
22 through Don Schmidt. Then I told them I'm not such a bad
23 guy, I'll let you have it for \$5,000.00.

24 Q Was there a reason why you lowered your price?

25 A I hate to give you the reason because you are

1 not going to believe me.

2 Q All you do is tell us the truth. Whether we
3 believe you or not, just tell us the truth.

4 A The reason is that at that time you can look at
5 my bank accounts or checking accounts or whatever, but at
6 the time I initially asked for \$10,000.00 because I needed
7 it for some deal and ended up getting 5,000 from someplace
8 else and I didn't need it so I asked for less. I told him I
9 would take half price or whatever.

10 Q Were your dealings with Schmidt on this
11 document?

12 A I can't remember if I saw President Hinkley on
13 this or not but I knew that he was involved. But it may
14 have been that Don Schmidt told me that he had agreed to the
15 \$10,000.00 price.

16 Q Did you give them a story of how you obtained
17 the document?

18 A I always had a story, but I can't remember what
19 it was. Probably that I received it from a descendant of
20 Walter Conrad or I received it from another collector or
21 something, I can't remember.

22 Q Anything else on this particular document?

23 A I noticed that I matched the stains, from one
24 leaf to the other on the back of the document, looks like
25 some sort of food stain or whatever. I don't remember what

1 I was having for lunch that day. Also has the stain on it
2 from adhesive tape.

3 Q Is there a stamp on it?

4 A No.

5 Q There isn't? That would have been one that
6 came in an envelope?

7 A Yes.

8 Q The address on it, do you remember why you
9 chose that address?

10 A As far as Richmond, Missouri?

11 Q Yes.

12 A That's where Dave Whitmer lived.

13 Q Do you have any more on that.

14 MR. BIGGS: No.

15 MR. STOTT: Were you aware of the LDS Church
16 subjecting any of these to any scientific evaluation other
17 than the Anthon Transcript?

18 A Meaning a forensic examination?

19 Q Right.

20 A Not that I can remember. And even the Anthon
21 Transcript, I believe they ended up not doing anything, or
22 much on.

23 Q Were you surprised at that?

24 A At first I was. Particularly with the Anthon
25 Transcript but then I got used to them not doing it and even

1 if they would have done it my feeling was it would have
2 passed a forensic test. In other words, I believe the blue
3 ink I would have used for the lines would have been a
4 Persian blue similar to what was used in the 19th Century.
5 The ink, I thought would pass, the paper, the handwriting.
6 Of course, handwriting examination is always subjective but
7 I thought that it would pass.

8 Q How about the other dealers you dealt with?
9 Were you surprised none of them basically had these
10 documents forensically examined?

11 A Autograph dealers rarely do. In fact, I can
12 think of documents that have sold for 10s of thousands of
13 dollars that haven't been examined by autograph dealers as
14 far as forensic tests. Most forgeries can be fairly easily
15 detected from the ink. I'm one of the few forgers, I
16 believe, at least up to that time, that used an iron gall .
17 Forgeries are often detected by the handwriting on the
18 document. That I knew would be closely examined. I took
19 great pains to imitate the handwriting. I'm speaking now of
20 national type documents that, for example,-- Well I won't
21 use any examples because you will have to wait until Ron is
22 here.

23 Q Many times people said that when it came to
24 telling them where the document came from you were either
25 evasive or would tell them something to the effect that, you

1 know, who I got it from really doesn't want his or her name
2 mentioned.

3 A Yes.

4 Q And you were quite secretive.

5 A Yes.

6 Q Was that planned and purposeful?

7 A Certainly. I didn't want to name a source that
8 could be checked out since that source didn't really exist
9 or didn't sell me the document. Although fortunately, at
10 least for forgers, that is a pretty common story. Autograph
11 dealers protect their sources. Meaning if you were to try
12 to establish a provenance on a document, on a genuine
13 document, you would rarely be able to take it back very far.
14 Well, I should qualify that. You guys would be able to take
15 it back pretty far just because you represent the law, you
16 know, they'll cooperate with you or whatever, and tell you
17 what you want to know. But I've had like documents that I
18 purchased at auction. In trying to determine from the
19 auction house where it came from I have been unsuccessful.
20 Documents that I purchased from legitimate dealers that I
21 have been unsuccessful in determining provenance.

22 Q Are you saying that--

23 A It is pretty common.

24 Q Are you saying even though in some of these
25 books you read by Hamilton and others that provenance is an

1 important step in authenticating a letter, that it is not
2 looked upon generally by the average dealer as that
3 important?

4 A Hamilton in one of his books in fact, indicates
5 that provenance is not that important and should not be
6 considered. His statement being that documents with the
7 best provenances are the most likely to be the forged
8 documents. In his words, you should look at the document
9 and not at the provenance. You seized all of my autograph
10 books or else I could point out that reference but that's a
11 generally accepted viewpoint. There are elaborate
12 provenances associated with very crude forgeries. Again,
13 I'm thinking more of national type documents. And generally
14 they don't, the provenance doesn't carry much weight.

15 Q Generally speaking, it seemed like some of your
16 friends such as Metcalf or Jacobs or Flynn, very easily
17 came forward with explanations for your documents when
18 people would question them. For example, one of the most
19 familiar statements was, how did Mark Hofmann come up with
20 all of his documents? No one else for a hundred years has.
21 And then the story line was, well, Mark Hofmann is
22 professional, he spends all of his days and nights doing
23 this and goes in to the genealogy where he is able to
24 research the findings and then he goes through the cover
25 letters. Now that sounds like something that maybe you came

1 up with and told them and they told other people; is that
2 right?

3 A I don't believe so. I believe that what you
4 just quoted was Lynn Jacobs, and of course I would never
5 disagree with his statement as to my expertise or whatever,
6 but, I didn't put those words in his mouth, you know. He
7 did it as a friend and that is what he thought.

8 It's hard for a lot of people to accept, I'm
9 sure, that my closest friends and even my wife did not know
10 the extent of my fraudulent dealings. But those people do
11 not know my personality. In other words, I have always been
12 fairly introverted. I have never had really close friends
13 that I've shared information with. Even in my earlier
14 dealings with coins and other antiques. Even in my earlier
15 dealings I may have slipped once. I obviously did
16 concerning my fraudulent coin activities but generally I
17 didn't brag about such things and didn't talk about such
18 things.

19 Q Why was it that they were so prone to protect
20 you? For example, after the bombings, it seemed like they
21 went out of their way to defend your documents, especially
22 to Martin Harris, the Salamander Letter. Do you have any
23 idea why that was?

24 A Because they're my friends and genuinely
25 believed that the documents were genuine and were trying to

1 protect me. I'm sure I could answer that better if I
2 thought about it for some time but they where convinced of
3 my innocence. I had convinced them of the genuineness of
4 the documents.

5 Brent Metcalf, for example, I believe you refer
6 to him when you say, went out of his way to assure that the
7 documents were genuine or whatever. He was involved from a
8 very early point in establishing the authenticity of the
9 Salamander Letter and knew I was fearless as far as who
10 examined it, what tests were performed on it and I'm sure
11 could not imagine that I would be so fearless if I suspected
12 it might be a forgery. I think that would apply to Lynn
13 Jacobs and and Shanon Flynn also. In other words, it
14 wasn't a plan. I didn't take them aside and saw you have to
15 stick up for me guys or I'll blow you up or whatever. Such
16 a thing never happened. I think they believed in the
17 genuineness of the documents and also my innocence in the
18 bombings.

19 Q Did they believe that you did a lot of
20 genealogy work and that's how you came on these people?

21 A Yes, and I did do a lot of genealogy work.
22 For example, I just mentioned in determining Walter Conrad,
23 I got his name out of the Genealogical Department. I in
24 fact, hired a couple individuals, one of which was Metcalf,
25 in doing genealogy work for me in a purported attempt to

1 track down some rare documents or items.

2 Q Do you want to go into any more of the
3 rationalization or do you want to wait on that?

4 A It is something that's hard to just talk about
5 without being questioned on about why I did a certain thing
6 or whatever.

7 MR. BIGGS: Remember we were talking about
8 that check, and you never did really answer that.

9 A Which check?

10 Q On the 13th of October of '85 you drove down to
11 Brent Ashworth's home.

12 A Oh, he was pressing me for payment on a
13 consigned item and I felt by giving him a check, even if he
14 had to hold it for a while, would satisfy him, and I
15 anticipated that I would be getting the funds to pay it.

16 MR. STOTT: Didn't you have more pressing
17 worries at that time? The question is why did you take the
18 time to go see Brent on this little bitty thing?

19 A A lot of it may have been, I shouldn't say a
20 lot of it, some of it may have been just the feeling of
21 having to get away. I did a lot of thinking while I drove.
22 I may have just decided to leave Salt Lake and drive down
23 there and at least having all of these other people
24 unsatisfied with me, at least I could satisfy Ashworth that
25 he would end up getting his money.

1 Q Now at that time you had bought some bomb
2 parts?

3 A Let's see, when did I buy the bomb parts? I
4 don't remember the exact--

5 MR. BIGGS: On the 7th, or 5th?

6 A Yes, well again this gets into rationalization
7 for the bombs. All along, of course, until the evening that
8 I made them, I didn't really think that I would end up using
9 them. At least to take a life.

10 MR. BIGGS: Why is that?

11 A My rationalization was that I would prepare
12 myself or have that at my disposal but that things would
13 work out. Now, remember, I think we went in to this
14 before, that my thinking was at that time that my life would
15 be taken. In other words, that it would be a suicide
16 attempt. Although, like I say, it was half a joke. Well,
17 joke is not a good word, but it was more thinking that I
18 have the parts, more of a way out, than actually saying to
19 myself when I purchased the parts, this is what I'm going to
20 use them for, these are the people I'm going to take out.
21 None of that was in my mind at that time. As far as the
22 idea of Mrs. Sheets, it hadn't even entered my mind yet.
23 Who was going to be taken out with me was up in the air, if
24 anyone was to be.

25 MR. STOTT: So were you casing Brent's place

1 out with the idea of him being a victim?

2 A Not at all. Although again, I know that is
3 what he thinks. I had nothing to case out. I knew where
4 his house was, I knew where his porch was or where I would
5 leave it if I was going to leave it there. I don't know if
6 you're satisfied or not. There wasn't any reason to case
7 out his joint.

8 Q Let's back off that a minute and get back to
9 the documents. Was there any concern on your hand that
10 from, you talked about it before, if the experts say it's a
11 genuine document and to these people it is, but was there
12 any concern on your part, that really it wasn't and these
13 people who perhaps had given you money were now investing
14 sentiment and emotion and belief in these documents but it
15 was based on a false premise. Did that enter your mind?
16 Did that cause you any concern?

17 A No, that didn't cause concern in my mind as far
18 as my feelings where it's not so much what is genuine and
19 what isn't as what people believe is genuine.

20 My example would be the Mormon Church, which
21 may be a bad example since I'm sure you're both believers in
22 it. I don't believe in the religion as far as that Joseph
23 Smith had the first vision or received the plates from the
24 Angel Moroni or whatever. It doesn't detract from the
25 social good that the Mormon Church can do. To me it is

1 unimportant if Joseph Smith had that vision or not as long
2 as people believe it. The important thing is that people
3 believe it.

4 Q Some of your documents caused a great stir in
5 viewing early Mormon history. Some of your documents seem
6 to point to the fact that Joseph Smith really perhaps wasn't
7 as truthful or open minded in his later accounts of what
8 occurred and he really was early on, mixed up in more of a
9 folk magic which caused a considerable controversy among,
10 not only the historians but people in general. What were
11 your feelings on that? Was this planned by you or what?

12 A No. Just like the media that I received for
13 the crimes. A lot of the media that the documents received
14 was unplanned, meaning that I knew that they would receive
15 some attention, that they were historically significant
16 documents or at least purported to be, but I was always
17 surprised by the amount of media that they actually
18 received.

19 Again, a lot of people, just from what I read
20 in the paper or whatever about me. The idea is that free
21 money wasn't the primary consideration, it was more changing
22 the history of the Church or rewriting the history of the
23 Church, how I thought it should be or whatever, which really
24 wasn't ever the primary consideration. It is true that I
25 wrote the documents according to how I felt the actual

1 events took place. In other words, I believe that Joseph
2 Smith was involved with folk magic, but the idea there was
3 more to keep it in harmony with what I thought potentially
4 genuine, discoverable type documents may say. In other
5 words, to make it fit the history as accurately as possible
6 so that I wouldn't be found out or whatever.

7 WHEREUPON, the interview was adjourned at the hour of
8 3:50 p. m.

9 -----

INTERVIEWS
CASE OF STATE VS. HOFMANN

FEBRUARY 11, 1987 through MAY 15, 1987

(APRIL 30, 1987)

COPY

1 APRIL 30, 1987

2 1:30 p.m.

3 PRESENT: ROBERT STOTT, BRAD RICH, MARK HOFMANN

4 MR. HOFMANN: From our last conversation I
5 thought of a few additional things that I should probably
6 put on the record.

7 You were asking me as far as why some of my
8 friends supported me through the preliminary hearing. Part
9 of the reason I think was the feelings which they had that
10 the law enforcement agencies were inefficient in their
11 handling of the case. For example, Shanon Flynn didn't
12 think much of the investigation after his shed was searched
13 and it was still reported to the media that that's where the
14 bombs were manufactured, but that the site had been cleaned
15 up.

16 Frank Metcalf told me that he had been told just
17 after I was blown up, that he had been told that I had made
18 a confession which when he later approached that officer,
19 said the officer just smiled and said that was part of their
20 technique and that offended him that he would have meant
21 that the end justifies the means.

22 Let's see, we also spoke of a calligraphy class
23 I was involved in with my wife. That didn't have anything
24 to do with these forgeries. I took it just because my wife
25 was taking it and didn't learn any 19th Century handwriting

1 or anything useful to these forgery skills. In fact, it
2 took place, or I took the class after most of these
3 forgeries we're talking about, I had already done.

4 MR. STOTT: Can I ask a question concern that?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Even though you have something else to say.
7 Almost everything that we've found, and almost without
8 exception, most people felt that you could not duplicate
9 other peoples' handwriting because all they ever saw of you
10 was your printing, which was in a very sloppy hand. Was
11 this part of your deception?

12 A No, because I had that handwriting even before
13 I decided to go into forgery. That was just my normal
14 handwriting.

15 Q Did you develop the skill of replicating other
16 peoples' handwriting or was it natural or what?

17 A Both. I don't think it is very hard to, if you
18 practice you can do anything. I normally print because my
19 cursive is even less legible than my printing. As I
20 remember, I haven't used cursive since elementary school.
21 In other words, any of my handwriting you will see since
22 probably third grade is all in printing.

23 Q There's a story of an occasion, I'm not sure if
24 it is in New York or something, you're out to dinner or
25 someplace with a bunch of friends.

1 A In Boston.

2 Q And you write on the tablecloth or napkin a
3 Joseph Smith or somebody's handwriting?

4 A Yes, I remember that occasion.

5 Q Will you tell us what happened or when?

6 A Yes. That was in Boston at a book fair.

7 Present, as I remember, were my wife, Lynn Jacobs, his
8 father, Rick Grinder, I believe Shanon Flynn was there,
9 possibly some others. For some reason the subject turned to
10 handwriting or familiar peoples' signatures, and several of
11 us made attempts to imitate their signatures. I believe it
12 was on a paper tablecloth, and I duplicated, I wrote out a
13 few signatures, although I purposefully didn't do them very
14 convincingly.

15 Q Any surprise by any of the people you were
16 actually doing cursive?

17 A Not that I remember. I wrote them out very
18 slowly and thoughtfully and not very accurately and I don't
19 remember that anyone expressed any surprise at the attempt.
20 I believe that the signatures were Joseph Smith, George
21 Washington, Abraham Lincoln, let's see, I believe there was
22 a Walt Whitman and I believe those are all I remember.

23 Q Are these all from memory then?

24 A Yes, they were all from memory. I think
25 people, since I dealt with those signatures or autographs

1 previously just thought I remembered what the autographs
2 looked like. You tell me, was anyone surprised at that
3 attempt that you talked to?

4 Q I'm not sure whether anyone said they were
5 surprised but there has been a retelling of that story by
6 people.

7 A Yes. Although, like I say, I don't believe
8 those autographs were very convincing. Purposefully that
9 way.

10 Q Did you have anything else you wanted to say?

11 A Yes. We were talking about Joseph Smith's last
12 letter which I forged.

13 Q General Dunham Letter?

14 A Yes. I am not sure if I pointed out the only
15 reason why Deseret Book bought that for me, if I hadn't
16 pledged the the money to make the purchase they wouldn't
17 have made that purchase. It still would have been with Dick
18 Marks. And that's all I can remember.

19 Q Let's go on to the Salamander Letter. Of
20 course, that was sold January 6th, 1984. Can you tell us
21 just when the idea started to come in your mind and how it
22 was that idea came and what your intentions were?

23 A I can't remember the details as far as how it
24 all came into my mind except in generalities. I knew that
25 Martin Harris' handwriting was very illusive. In fact, that

1 only signatures were known. I knew that he was fairly
2 superstitious in his beliefs, meaning that he believed in
3 both magic and legends.

4 Q Do you remember where you got those ideas from?

5 A It would have been from my reading about him.

6 Q Anything special or just general memory?

7 A I believe the stories about his
8 superstitiousness mostly came from anti-Mormon sources that
9 were printed early in the history of the Church. Such
10 statements as that he had stood up on a bar, I believe, in a
11 tavern or something and said that Christ was to return
12 within a matter of months or something to that effect, and
13 also talking about various supernatural occurrences.
14 Possibly from Howe's book, but I can't remember the exact
15 sources for all of that. A lot of the research I did for
16 the letter was from various history books, Church books,
17 both pro and anti-Mormon.

18 Q Let me ask you this: Did you have an idea in
19 mind what you wanted to do, then do research or did you do
20 research to come up with an idea?

21 A No, I came up with the idea first. Most of the
22 research I did was with his interviews and writings to try
23 to come up with a speaking or writing style which he might
24 have used by comparing various interviews done by different
25 people and various publications in which he supposedly

1 wrote. I was trying to come up with parallels between them
2 which would indicate what was his style and what was the
3 different interviewers' or reporters' style. As I remember,
4 there were several newspaper interviews which I looked at.
5 Most of this research was done in the Church Historian's
6 Office.

7 Q Would these have been where you actually went
8 back and saw the actual newspaper accounts or--

9 A Probably from microfilm, is the original
10 sources. Or Xeroxes.

11 Q Now, you pretty well knew already the content
12 of the letter and you were mostly going for phraseology?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Were you also looking through historical
15 sources that would perhaps back up the content?

16 A Undoubtedly, at least as far as the supposed
17 White Salamander or Toad, as it is described in some of the
18 anti-Mormon writings.

19 Q How long did you do your investigation?

20 A This brings up another point I should have
21 brought out earlier, and that is that a lot of the
22 investigation that I did was not exclusively for one project
23 or, in other words, I sometimes researched several
24 possibilities at the same time. Some of my research for
25 some of the forgeries was done just exclusively for that

1 forgery, where I devoted my full effort and attention into
2 gathering information on that subject as rapidly as possible
3 and then committing the forgery within days. I believe with
4 this item I had the idea in mind, and it was rather stewing
5 in any head for quite a while before I actually sat down and
6 decided to write it. Therefore, as far as how long it took
7 me, probably off and on for a number of months in between
8 when I first thought of the idea and when I actually did the
9 forgery. As far as when I actually decided to sit down and
10 write it and do it, it would have just been within a day or
11 two. Very rapidly.

12 Q Are you saying though that to get the contents
13 and writing down, you would write a sentence or phrase down,
14 maybe in your own handwriting and get it worked out before
15 you actually sat down and wrote it in Harris's handwriting?

16 A Yes, I would have done that. I would have
17 composed it before sitting down and trying to imitate his
18 handwriting or what I supposed his handwriting my look like.
19 But that would have all been within a day or two. In other
20 words, I may have done the research over quite a long period
21 of time but when I finally decided to sit down and write it
22 I would have composed it and forged it all within a day or
23 two. It wouldn't have been over any extended length of time
24 as far as a week or so. It wouldn't have been that long. I
25 would guess that I would have composed it and then forged it

1 within the same day or maybe two days, like I say.

2 Q You start off the letter, with "Your letter of
3 yesterday is received".

4 A Yes.

5 Q Did you do any research as to whether or not a
6 letter could have been received from Palmyra to Canandaigua
7 in a day's time?

8 A Yes. In fact, I had another folded letter, a
9 genuine from Canandaigua to Palmyra that had a similar
10 phrase. I also knew there were three days of the week in
11 which mail was delivered to Canandaigua and there was a road
12 between Canandaigua and Palmyra and I knew the days of
13 delivery and matched that with the day of the week or
14 whatever the 23rd of October would be. So in other words,
15 if someone were to investigate the postal history, that
16 would have confirmed the date.

17 Q Other than the postal was there any other
18 reason why October 23rd?

19 A I believe from the History of the Church that
20 was around the time period in that Martin Harris's neighbors
21 were making some claims as far as the wild stories he was
22 telling concerning Joseph Smith and the location of the gold
23 plates. I believe I decided sometime in the autumn or early
24 winter of that year would have been appropriate before
25 Joseph Smith received the revelation telling him not to

1 talk about such things or to just speak of-- Well, I
2 wouldn't try to quote it since I don't have it here. If you
3 have a Doctrine & Covenants I would point out the reference.

4 Q "Joseph Smith, Jr. First came to my notice in
5 the year 1824". Is that something that you researched?

6 A I believe that I found some reference to that
7 being around the time that Martin Harris had contact with
8 Joseph Smith, Sr. Although I don't believe I found any
9 material saying that that was his first contact, I believe
10 that-- Obviously, a lot of that letter, the vast majority of
11 the letter is made up from my own head.

12 Q That's what I'm trying to get at. Which is
13 from your own head and which part you would perhaps glean
14 from historical sources?

15 A I believe 1824, like I say, I believe I found
16 some historical source saying Martin Harris, at least had
17 contact with the Smith family by then. As far as building
18 the fence on the property I knew that, or I had read that in
19 the family, Joseph Smith, Sr. and his boys, I believe built
20 a well for Martin Harris and I was told later that there's
21 reference to a fence being built. But at the time that
22 surprised me, I wasn't aware of that when I committed the
23 forgery.

24 Q Were you aware at that time of a book called
25 ABC Palmyra? Ever do any research in that book?

1 A No. Is that the book that makes reference to
2 the fence?

3 Q Well, no. It is a book that makes reference to
4 a well.

5 A Oh, to a well? I can't remember the source for
6 the well that I read.

7 Q The little bit about putting it up in one day
8 what it takes somebody else to put up longer.

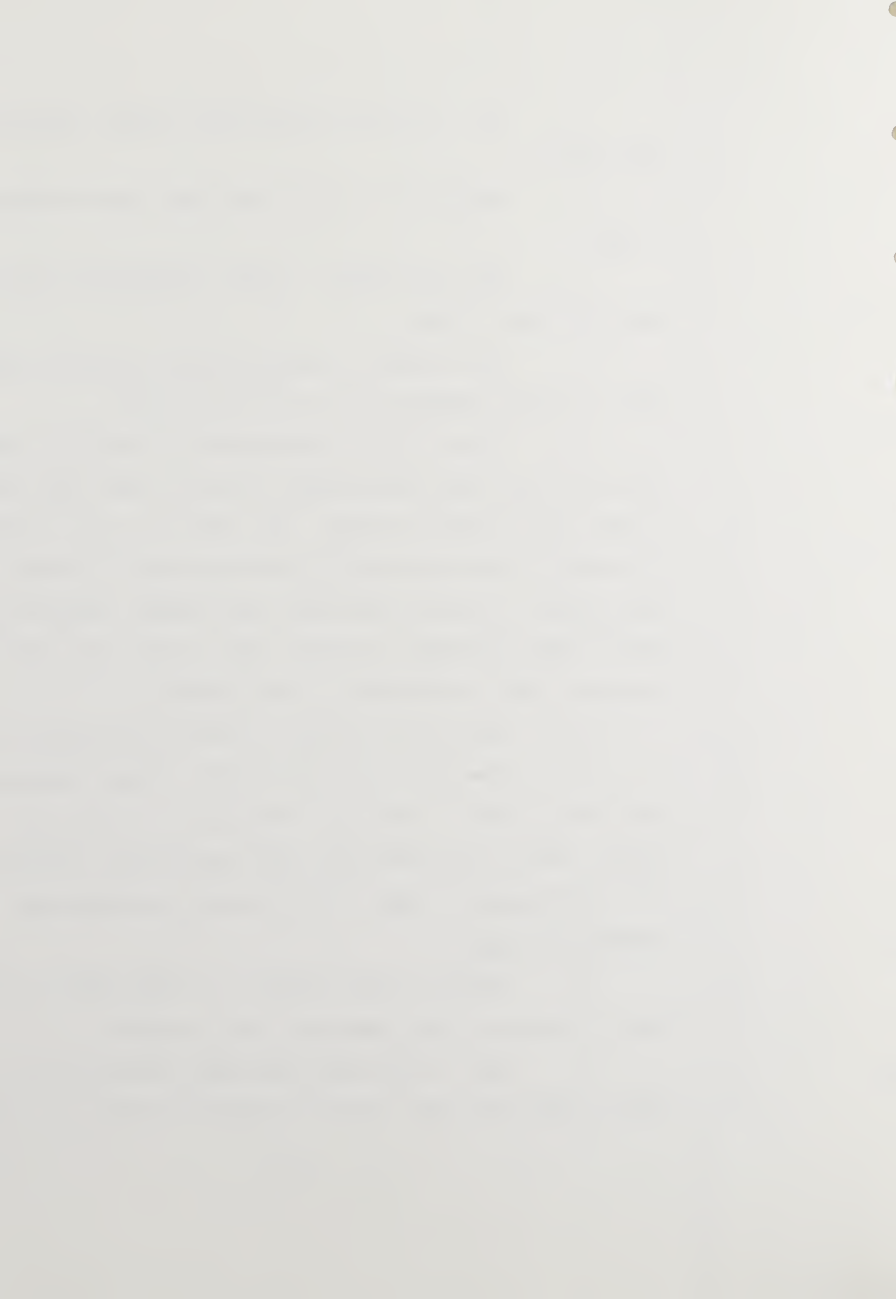
9 A That's all my imagination as far as, I believe
10 even the fact that Joseph Smith, Senior's boys were involved
11 in the work is from my head. The idea of a spirit helping
12 to bring up rocks obviously is from my head. Kettles of
13 coin money. I believe that the word kettles appears in
14 Howe's book, although I believe that it was some other
15 treasure other than money in the kettles.

16 Q What is this about "I have in my hand a coin"?

17 A That was all from my head. White Salamander
18 was from my head. I saw the reference to a toad and
19 thought that a salamander was more appropriate insofar as
20 its relationship to magic in the time period from my
21 readings of magic.

22 Q Before we get to that, it talks about a stone.
23 Says, "I found it four years ago with a stone".

24 A Yes. That would have been referring to the
25 seer's stone and that was part of the lore that it took



1 Joseph Smith four years to actually retrieve it.

2 Q Is that just general knowledge you had or was
3 there any specific source?

4 A It would have been from various histories of
5 the Church, from Joseph Smith's history and history of his
6 mother and whatever else. I believe even the anti-Mormons
7 made reference to that in their publications as far as it
8 took four years, that he was talking about obtaining the
9 treasure before doing so.

10 MR. RICH: Record should reflect for Mr.
11 Yocom's benefit it is 2:15 and David Biggs has just drifted
12 in.

13 DISCUSSION OFF THE RECORD

14 MR. STOTT: The enchantment, the old spirit
15 came to me three times in the same dream.

16 A Yes. There was, not using those words, of
17 course, but Joseph Smith in his History of the Church talked
18 about the spirit coming three times.

19 Q Was there any attempt at this time on your part
20 to tie this in to the Josiah Staal phraseology or the
21 spirit talked about in the Staal Letter?

22 A I don't believe so. I thought that spirit was
23 the appropriate word rather than angel in that, that was a
24 word commonly used in the earliest days of the Church rather
25 than angel.

1 Q And then the language about "the spirit
2 transfigured himself from a white salamander in the bottom
3 of the hole and struck me three times"?

4 A Yes, there's a reference in Howe to Joseph
5 Smith being struck. Also I believe there are a couple other
6 sources to that effect. People who claimed that Joseph
7 Smith had said that, that he was bodily prevented from
8 receiving the plates.

9 Q Now the white salamander, you were going to
10 explain that?

11 A I was only going to say that the idea for the
12 White Salamander derived from the toad in A. D. Howe's
13 book. Salamander, from my reading of folk magic, seemed
14 more appropriate than a toad.

15 Q Just a common reference in folk magic?

16 A I believe so.

17 Q Was that something you were aware of or did you
18 have to do any special research in to that area?

19 A It is something I had already read. I was
20 aware of.

21 Q What was your significance of what the
22 significance the white salamander had?

23 A I don't believe I saw a reference to a white
24 salamander, only a salamander, but I decided to spice it up.

25 Q What was the salamander supposed to mean? Why

1 did you choose that over the toad?

2 A At the time I chose it only because it was
3 commonly used in folk magic. I didn't realize until later
4 all the implications other people would associate with it as
5 far as being able to dwell in fire. I wasn't smart enough
6 at the time to understand all that, but it just happened to
7 be important, or at least some people thought it was
8 important, the same way some people thought various things
9 with the Anthon Transcript or other forgeries were
10 important when no importance were placed in it by me.
11 People read into it what they want or get out of it what
12 they want. I know that really turned on Brent Metcalf for
13 example, and some of the other researchers.

14 Q But you were aware that the salamander had some
15 significance in folk magic?

16 A Yes, that's right.

17 Q What about, "shall I bring what remains",
18 talking about Alvin?

19 A Part of that was from my own imagination and
20 part was from a story that-- Well, actually a couple
21 different stories that I tied together. One being that an
22 advertisement which Joseph Smith, Jr. placed in the Wayne
23 Centinell asking people who initiated rumors to the effect
24 that Alvin's body had been desecrate would cease and desist.
25 Did I say that right? And there was also a story that

1 Alvin, or rumor, that Alvin was involved, was the magician
2 of the family before his death.

3 Q Where did you hear that from? Where did you
4 gain that knowledge; do you remember?

5 A I can't remember the source of that. In fact,
6 there was a possibility that I might have started that to
7 some extent as far as I remember telling some people, such
8 as Metcalf, rumors to that effect. In fact, I can't
9 remember now how much of that is rumor and how much I had
10 read in another source.

11 Q What is this about: "Look to the stone, Joseph
12 looks but cannot see who to bring"?

13 A As I remember, there is a reference, I believe,
14 in First Nephi that uses the word looks, and I believe that
15 was the source for how I used the word. I believe that was
16 the vision of Lehi and which Nephi also had concerning the
17 iron rod. I believe that the spirit, which is narrating
18 that, used the word "look". Look to this, look to that,
19 type thing. And I believe I appropriated the word from
20 that.

21 Q "Looks and sees his wife"?

22 A Pardon me?

23 Q "Looks and sees his wife".

24 A Yes. In the History of the Church, Joseph
25 Smith supposedly, the last time that he confronted the angel

1 to get the plates he had his wife with him and let's see, I
2 believe that's in Lucy Mack Smith's history and other
3 sources also.

4 Q "I gave Joseph \$50.00"?

5 A That's from the History of the Church that
6 Martin Harris loaned or gave Joseph Smith \$50.00 to move him
7 out of Palmyra.

8 Q So it says, "When you visit me I will give you
9 a sign".

10 A It is also from the History of the Church that
11 Martin Harris later visited Joseph Smith and took the Anthon
12 Transcript.

13 Q Was this an attempt now to tie it in to your
14 Anthon Transcript or give it some validity?

15 A Not really. That was already pretty well
16 validated as far as--, Is that an appropriate word?

17 MR. RICH: Uh huh (indicating affirmatively.)

18 A Yes, from the History of the Church which the
19 Anthon Transcript episode was, it is as well documented as
20 any episode in the early Church history.

21 Q The rest of it appears to be information you
22 could have got from--

23 A Shorthand. I believe that came out of.

24 Q That's a good idea.

25 A Yes, Egyptian shorthand I believe came from

1 Howe or some other source.

2 Q How about Brodie?

3 A Brodie may have copied it from Howe if she used
4 the phrase. Let's see, it may even be that Anthon used
5 that phrase, Egyptian shorthand in which case the idea would
6 have been that Martin Harris picked up that term from
7 Hampton, I guess, and appropriated it in this letter.

8 Q Anything else on the rest?

9 A Spectacles would have come from probably Howe.
10 That may have come from Lucy Mack Smith's history. Let's
11 see, he puts a, the stone in a hatch would have come
12 probably from Howe. In any case it came from some history
13 that I read. And, of course, the idea of the three
14 references would have come from the History of the Church.

15 Q You mentioned Hale. Is that Mormonism Unveiled
16 by a D. Hale?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did you have a copy of that of your own?

19 A I had a Xerox copy published by the Tanners.

20 Q Is that similar to the one I have?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Could you find specifically any of the items in
23 there that would have been used by you as a source for any
24 of these items?

25 A I probably could but probably not very rapidly.

1 If you want me to take a copy of that and bring it back with
2 some underlining or whatever, I will.

3 Q Okay,, I can let you have this. Let me just
4 ask you. Well, I'll tell you what--

5 A If you point it out I can probably identify if
6 that's what I used or not. I believe there is a couple
7 references to the toad.

8 A Yes, Willard Chase's testimony was the primary
9 reference to the toad which the author of the book later
10 used.

11 Q There is two places in there in reference to
12 the toad.

13 A Yes.

14 Q In fact, it says on page 276, " which
15 immediately transformed itself into a spirit".

16 A Yes. I thought the word, not wanting to sound
17 like I was plagurizing from a book, I used the word
18 transfigured rather than transformed.

19 Q "And gave him a tremendous blow".

20 A Yes.

21 Q You made three blows out of it, struck him
22 twice or three times I think, rather than gave a tremendous
23 blow?

24 A Again, I didn't want to sound like I was
25 copying it word for word.

1 Q Now another one here, on page 274, he quotes,
2 supposedly a letter from Howe, excuse me from Phillips to
3 Howe.

4 A Oh, yes.

5 Q Are you familiar with that letter?

6 A Yes, this letter I believe had the source for
7 the, yes, the shorthand Egyptian. The idea being that if
8 Phillips, who was the recipient of the forged Martin Harris
9 letter, Salamander Letter, in speaking of Martin Harris's
10 episode with the Anthon Transcript. If he described the
11 handwriting in shorthand Egyptian that he would have
12 acquired that knowledge from the forged letter or in other
13 words, it was a validation for the letter. This would have
14 been, this letter of Phillips to Howe would have been
15 approximately three months after he had received the forged
16 letter, the Martin letter.

17 Q Was that your intention then to make it appear
18 as your letter was the predecessor or the information that
19 Phillips was using to write to Howe?

20 A At least that's part of the letter as far as
21 the Anthon episode or the shorthand Egyptian.

22 Q Did you do any historical research to make sure
23 Phillips was leaving there at the time and would have been
24 home on this date?

25 A I believe I did, yes.

1 Q Do you remember if you found out one way or the
2 other?

3 A I believe in fact, that just a day or two
4 either side of October 23rd that Phillips wrote a letter
5 from Canandaigua that appeared in the local newspaper there.

6 Q Now on another occasion you told us that you
7 also were familiar with Joseph Knight's recollection of
8 early Mormon history?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Is that another one that you would have read in
11 preparation for this?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Do you remember anything specifically in there
14 now that would have made its way in to the Salamander Letter
15 either directly or indirectly?

16 A I could probably point out a number of items if
17 I were to read through it, which I suppose you want me to
18 do.

19 Q We could leave a copy.

20 A Yes. I don't believe I got my information from
21 this reprint that I am looking at.

22 Q Where would you have got it from?

23 A It would have been from the actual handwritten
24 account, a Xerox which I had.

25 Q And you obtained that from the archives?

1 A Yes. I believe the original is in the archives
2 of the Church.

3 Q Does that differ much from this reprint in BYU
4 Studies?

5 A Yes. This is a transcript from BYU Studies.
6 I haven't really made that comparison but. Let's see, this
7 is by Dean Jesse and just knowing that fact I would say
8 that it is an accurate transcript.

9 Q Why don't we put that off a minute and if we
10 get time we'll get back to that. You remember during this
11 time, did you come across anything by a Benjamin Saunders?

12 A Depends. Who is Benjamin Saunders? That name
13 doesn't sound familiar.

14 Q Here's a Benjamin Saunders affidavit that I
15 have a typed copy of. Here's a copy of the original which
16 apparently was written by somebody else for Benjamin
17 Saunders. I was just curious if that is something you knew
18 about or not?

19 A I don't remember using this.

20 Q I just wanted to know if that was one you would
21 have used?

22 A I would have if I had access to it but I don't
23 remember. No, I believe the spectacles would have come
24 from, let's see, I see there was reference to-- Okay, first
25 of all, spectacles I believe came from Lucy Mack Smith's

1 history and other histories. I don't believe it would have
2 come from this. Also reference to something like a toad
3 that came up out of the box, I believe I did not have access
4 to this. In fact, I'm certain I didn't at the time that I
5 wrote it. I took that information from Howe's book as far
6 as the toad.

7 Q Can we take just a minute and talk about your
8 relationship with Brent Metcalf at that time as far as what
9 was his interest, as expressed to you, in early Mormon
10 history during this time and what information, if any, were
11 you receiving from him during this time you were researching
12 the Salamander Letter?

13 A In order to not hurt his feelings by having
14 something historically important and not offering it to him,
15 I asked Brent Metcalf if he was interested in this letter,
16 which he said he wasn't particularly. He was more
17 interested in the more favorable accounts.

18 Q Are you talking about after the letter was
19 completed or before?

20 A This would have been at the time before it was
21 sold to Steve Christensen.

22 Q What I'm getting at, before you actually
23 composed the letter, Brent Metcalf at that time was--

24 A Oh, I was thinking of Ashworth.

25 Q No, Metcalf.

1 A Okay. Strike that. Metcalf had previously
2 told me that if I ever had a document dealing with, if I
3 ever located a controversial type of document, that he
4 thought that his boss, Steve Christensen, would be
5 interested in it. As far as my relationship with Metcalf,
6 we were friends. Although I don't believe at that time, I
7 don't believe it was until after I forged this letter that
8 he actually shared with me some of his research materials as
9 far as Joseph Smith's involvement with magic.

10 Q Were you aware, and I'm talking about a time
11 before you actually created the letter, that he was
12 interested in Joseph Smith's early accounts of the finding
13 of the plates?

14 A Yes, I was.

15 Q Did he share with you any of that information?

16 A I don't believe he did at that time. I don't
17 believe it was until afterwards, just after I had shown him
18 this letter that he shared with me a lot of that
19 information.

20 Q Let me show you a Xerox copy of a document
21 dated 6-19-83 entitled Scurrying for the Treasure Troll, New
22 England Folk Magic and the Book of Mormon, which is a
23 summary of some ideas set down by Brent Metcalf which he
24 apparently composed on that date.

25 A Yes.

1 Q Are you familiar with that?

2 A I believe I may have seen this but I don't
3 believe it would have been until after my involvement with
4 him, with Brent Metcalf, as far as Joseph Smith's folk magic
5 did not happen until after I had forged the Salamander
6 Letter. That's what introduced the subject in our
7 discussions. I don't believe I would have, that I really
8 talked to him that much at all as far as Joseph Smith's
9 involvement with folk magic beforehand.

10 Q Was it during this time that you were talking
11 to him about Alvin or would that have been a little later?

12 A It would have been a little later that I
13 introduced the story of, let's see, that I introduced the
14 story as far as Alvin preceding Joseph Smith and the alleged
15 reference in the First Presidency's vault of a history of
16 Alvin. That would have been later.

17 Q How much later, do you remember?

18 A Probably a few months later after Steve
19 Christensen purchased this letter.

20 Q Is there anything to that story?

21 A No.

22 Q Is that all a creation of yours?

23 A That's pure creation.

24 Q And besides telling Metcalf you told some other
25 people, didn't you?

1 A I believe I told, well I know I told it to,
2 let's see, Lynn Jacobs. I may have told Shanon Flynn but I
3 can't remember having told anyone else.

4 Q How about a reporter, L. A. Times?

5 A Oh, of course, yes.

6 Q Who would that be?

7 A Yes, I was the deep throat or however I was
8 described in the media. That would have been--

9 MR. RICH: That was John P.

10 MR. STOTT: Was it Dart?

11 A Yes, I think it would have been John Dart is
12 his name. Do you want me to go in to that now? As long as
13 we are talking about it I may as well.

14 Dart was contacted by Metcalf and told that an
15 inside source named Limy had access to some materials in the
16 First Presidency's vault and was willing to make a statement
17 concerning Alvin's involvement in this early Church record
18 in first having contact with the Angel Moroni or whoever.
19 And thwarted because of his death from obtaining the plates
20 and then Joseph took over, type of deal.

21 Dart flew into Salt Lake. Metcalf and he,
22 myself had lunch one afternoon at --, I can't think of the
23 name of the restaurant. At a sandwich shop of some sort,
24 hamburger place. We then went to a park where we sat down
25 at a table, picnic table, and I told him this fabrication.

1 It is purely made up. It's not based on anything I saw in
2 the First Presidency's office or elsewhere.

3 Q My next question would be, had you ever seen
4 anything or ever been invited in to the First Presidency's
5 vault?

6 A No. I saw some materials from the First
7 Presidency's vault and looked in to the First Presidency's
8 vault but I've never set foot in to the vault.

9 Q Some things were brought out and showed to you?

10 A Right.

11 Q What were those things? Anything relating to
12 anything we've talked about?

13 A No. If there is a characteristic-- I'm getting
14 philosophical now. There is a characteristic of human
15 nature that if something is unknown, people imagine the
16 worst. That's basically how it is with the First
17 Presidency's vault. People imagine that everything is in
18 there and that is being kept in there to cover it up by the
19 Church or whatever, which I don't believe is true but people
20 like to imagine all kinds of interesting skeletons in the
21 closet.

22 Q The Oliver Cowdery was made up by you?

23 A Right.

24 Q No such person that you know of?

25 A Right.

1 Q Never saw it in the First Presidency's vault or
2 anywhere?

3 A Right.

4 Q How did you come up with the story?

5 A There was a footnote in a book, I believe by
6 Joseph Fielding Smith, where he discussed something about
7 that history and said that it was in the possession of the
8 Church. That has been interpreted by people to mean that
9 there's some other history. I can't remember all the
10 details but that was the original, that was the source of
11 the idea.

12 Q Why did you make the story up?

13 A For a couple reasons. First of all, I remember
14 distinctly when I did make it up we were eating at Wendy's.
15 Indigestion, perhaps. And I first talked about it actually
16 out of amusement. It wasn't anything I had previously
17 thought of, I just kind of evolved into it, to keep them
18 interested. One thing about Metcalf is he's always
19 interested in these little hidden rumors or truths or
20 whatever. And I noticed I could throw out a little thing to
21 wet his appetite and he would always be after me for more
22 and more information. So I would just make it up as we went
23 along.

24 Q Why did you go to John Dart and why did you not
25 go to a reporter and publish it?

1 A I didn't. My intention wasn't to have that
2 happen but Metcalf, although I swore him to secrecy at the
3 time, somehow word of this Oliver Cowdery history got out
4 and he brought John Dart into it or whatever. Let's see, I
5 said there were a couple reasons for the story. The other,
6 obviously, would have been that part of the Oliver Cowdery
7 History was there was a white salamander as far as Alvin's
8 involvement and that would have validated the history
9 presented in the forged Salamander Letter.

10 Q Again made up by you?

11 A Again made up by me. One forged idea to
12 validate another forged idea.

13 Q Not only then the whole thing was made up but
14 you were aware by people recounting this story it was
15 causing, I suppose, some considerable embarrassment to the
16 LDS authorities?

17 A Yes.

18 Q But you went along with it to the point of
19 giving an interview. What were your feelings during this
20 time? Why were you doing that?

21 A As far as my feelings, there was actually a
22 mixture of emotions. One of which was amusement for the
23 whole idea. As far as the embarrassment to the Church, it
24 is true that it was embarrassing but I was also interested
25 to see how the Church would react to the situation. As far

1 as giving the interview, I ended up consenting but I did it
2 reluctantly feeling that once the story got out I was kind
3 of, just like a lot of these other frauds, it was almost
4 like I ended up getting dragged along with my own creation
5 to past where I wanted to. I don't know how to best
6 describe that, but a lot of these events were rather an
7 evolution rather than plotting in advance how I would
8 respond to a situation. I just, it kind of just evolved in
9 to that. There wasn't a lot of times, there wasn't a lot
10 of-- Like I remember, for example, we were he eating at
11 Wendy's. The idea wasn't to get this public, just to get
12 Metcalf interested or wet his appetite or get him excited
13 about it or whatever.

14 Q Lunch conversation?

15 A Right. And it kind of evolved. The idea at
16 that time wasn't now I can use this to leak this to the
17 press and use this to validate the Salamander Letter or
18 anything like that. That wasn't my initial thought.

19 Q Let me go back then to the Salamander. Do you
20 remember at any time if you had any access to an A. C.
21 Lambert Collection in your investigation at that time?

22 A I had access to it but it wasn't around this.

23 Q Connected with the Anthon maybe?

24 A Yes, it was connected with the Anthon.

25 Q But not the Salamander?

1 A That's right. Yes, that would have been the
2 University of Utah library.

3 Q You said part of your reason for the research
4 was you wanted to look at the syntax and the way that he
5 spoke, the way that he wrote?

6 A Yes.

7 Q He read the Salamander Letter and it is very
8 disjointed. Really choppy. Of poor wording.

9 A Yes. A lot of that could have come from the
10 Knight account that we were just talking about. Also,
11 Martin Harris was more educated than the Smiths. I had
12 seen, for example, several business letters or letters
13 written by semi-educated people in the time period, that
14 this seemed the appropriate sentence structure or whatever.

15 Q Same way? The sentences running on with no
16 periods or no capitals?

17 A Yes, although-- Yes, that's right. Although it
18 rather jumps around, it is also fairly concise, gets right
19 to the point or whatever. It was a style. I thought it
20 would have been appropriate for Martin Harris.

21 Q Where did you get the paper for this document?

22 A I believe it came from the-- It certainly came
23 from a book at the University of Utah Library, I believe
24 from the Niles Register.

25 Q Any idea which particular one? Which

1 particular set?

2 A I believe it would have come from a volume in
3 the original binding, in the leather binding. If I were to
4 see them I might be able to point it out.

5 Q It is separated now. Was it separated, or was
6 that from one single sheet of paper that's been torn since?

7 A It is from one single sheet of paper that was
8 later torn or fell apart at the folds.

9 Q Do you know how that fell apart? When it fell
10 apart?

11 A I believe it was barely hanging together when
12 it was actually sold to Steve Christensen and later just
13 through handling or whatever, I'm not sure if it was in one
14 piece or two when Grendell looked at it.

15 Q What about the lines on the paper?

16 A I forged those with a pen.

17 Q You drew them?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Was it with the same kind of ink as you used to
20 write with or something different?

21 A Yes, I believe so, although it would have been
22 much watered down.

23 Q Why did you put the lines on it? Any
24 particular reason?

25 A To make it appear to be writing paper rather

1 than an end sheet. This was around the time period that
2 lined paper started to be used fairly commonly.

3 Q Do you remember if you sized this or washed it
4 either before or after you put the writing on it?

5 A I believe I would have sized it before putting
6 the writing on it. I can't remember if I would have washed
7 it before or after, although the paper itself feels rather
8 limp, so it was, the sizing was probably washed out of it
9 afterwards.

10 Q That letter has a very peculiar folding. Why
11 is it folded that way?

12 A I had another letter written on a single sheet.
13 A genuine folded cover which was folded identically. I
14 copied the fold from that.

15 Q Was it a letter?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Was it a business type transaction?

18 A No, I don't believe it was. It was a
19 postmarked letter.

20 Q As you can see the address is kind of moved
21 over to one side rather than being in the middle.

22 A Right.

23 Q Did you find that most of the letters you dealt
24 with at the time, with the stamp, was folded and addressed
25 in a different manner than this?

1 A Yes, most of them were. In fact, that's one of
2 the easier ways to detect forgery is they all seemed to--
3 Most forgers try to keep everything as typical as possible,
4 although in real life things are not that typical. If
5 anything, in my mind, the fact that it was folded in an
6 appropriate or sometimes-used styles but not the common way,
7 would have substantiated it rather than anything else.

8 Q Do you remember cutting the paper?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Was that when you took it out of the document
11 or out of the book or after?

12 A It would have been after the lines were drawn
13 on it.

14 Q Why did you cut it?

15 A Well, the sides of it I would have cut because
16 if it would not have been cut you would have been able to
17 see on the sides of the paper, ink from the drawing of the
18 lines which would not have appeared on a genuine ruled
19 sheet. I remember that I would have cut the sides but I
20 don't remember if I cut the top. Well, I'm sure I would
21 have cut the top and the bottom also.

22 Q It appears to be a couple of places, at least
23 one on the top where there's a nick cut out of it. Was that
24 the way it was originally or has that come about since, in
25 the upper left hand corner of the document?

1 A I believe somebody did a paper test on it and
2 removed that.

3 Q Your memory was it was solid?

4 A Yes.

5 Q What about the little tear about the middle of
6 the letter as we are facing the left-hand side?

7 A At one time the seal, that was there as I
8 forged it. There's also a little piece added above that,
9 that at one time was attached to the wax at the bottom left
10 hand. I'm looking at it from the first page up, bottom left
11 hand corner that was removed from the wax and restored in
12 the middle of the page.

13 Q Was that wax you obtained from somewhere else?

14 A It would have come from a genuine folded
15 letter.

16 Q And you say that seal has been moved?

17 A A piece of the paper that at one time was
18 attached to the wax, Lynn Jacobs reattached to the middle of
19 the page.

20 Q Under your direction? Did you ask him to do
21 that?

22 A I cannot remember if I asked him or when he had
23 it in his possession, he is fairly skilled in document
24 restoration and did a nice job in restoring that.

25 Q What about the postage mark? Again, that's

1 something you had researched?

2 A Yes. Six cents would have been the appropriate
3 rate.

4 Q Ink?

5 A The same as the other documents.

6 Q Do you know if you used different ink in the
7 body of the letter vs the address?

8 A I believe it would have been the same although
9 it may have been oxidized somewhat differently.

10 Q Do you remember what kind of ink pen you used?

11 A Steel pen.

12 Q What about the aging process?

13 A Probably would have been ammonia.

14 Q Do you remember anything particular about this
15 document that would have been different than the aging
16 process of any other document?

17 A It is somewhat mildewed. I would have used
18 bread mold in places to cause the spotting. For example,
19 looking at the address leaf side around the bottom left hand
20 corner area--

21 MR. BIGGS: Any bookworms on this one?

22 A I believe most of the holes were punched by
23 your forensics people.

24 MR. STOTT: Some were punched long before we
25 got to it.

1 A Yes. Probably from Rendell's analysis or
2 whatever was done to it.

3 Q Anything else you remember doing as far as the
4 creation process goes?

5 A I should point out that the handwriting I
6 adopted from the formation of the letters in the signature.
7 It was a fairly common type of a writing style at the time
8 period.

9 Q I'll go in to the handwriting in just a minute.
10 What about the stamp?

11 A The stamp would have been made by myself, I
12 believe.

13 Q When you say you believe, you don't have an
14 independent memory?

15 A I'm certain it would have been made by myself.
16 I'm just trying to think of how I would have made this one.

17 Q How did you make it?

18 A It was some sort of a plate. It was, I'm quite
19 certain it was a copper plate. The postmark itself would
20 have been photographed off of a genuine folded cover.

21 Q You made the plate?

22 A Yes, I made the plate.

23 Q And you made the plate in your house?

24 A Yes.

25 Q From what materials?

1 A It would have been made in my garage, actually.
2 Another piece of copper plate, some photoresist in an
3 aerosol and developer. Ferric chloride solution to etch the
4 plate.

5 Q You made your own negative?

6 A Let's see, what was the date?
7 This was in '84.

8 Q You sold it January 6 of '84.

9 A Yes, I believe I made my own negative.

10 Q Earlier on, did you describe the engraving
11 process earlier, Dave?

12 MR. BIGGS: Not this particular one.

13 MR. STOTT: About him making engraving plates?

14 A Just to protect myself, let me tell you another
15 possibility for how I would have made the postmark.

16 Q We don't want you to protect yourself, we just
17 want you to tell us what happened.

18 A That's what I'm saying. I am not positively
19 sure how I made that plate. The other possibility would
20 have been that I had the artwork from the original postmark,
21 from the original folded cover. That I photocopied that
22 onto a piece of plastic for a transparency. That I used a
23 positive rather than a negative photoresist which would have
24 made the letters or the, what appears to be the impression
25 of the postmark, sunk within the plate rather than sticking

1 up from it, and then I would have used a piece of silly
2 putty that I would have smashed in to that plate after it
3 was developed and etched. And then put the silly putty onto
4 a piece of glass in which I rolled the ink, and then pressed
5 that into the paper, on to the paper.

6 Q So you made your own stamp?

7 A Yes, it would have been my own stamp made that
8 way.

9 Q You did it both ways is what you're saying?

10 A Yes. And what I'm saying is I can't remember
11 exactly how I made this. It would have been one of those
12 two techniques which were the only two techniques I used to
13 make postmarks.

14 Q Do you remember if you ever had a stamp plate
15 made by a professional engraver or did you make them all
16 yourself?

17 A I may have had a Salt Lake City postmark made
18 professionally, as I remember, but all of them dealing with
19 these, that I have been charged with, I made myself.

20 Q This etching, is that a chemical process?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Not something you do physically?

23 A That's correct. It is a type of an acid.

24 Q How did you learn to do this?

25 A In my high school days. Actually before my, in

1 the summer before, I took an electronics class in the
2 summer, I believe, between junior high and high school in
3 which I learned that process for making electronic
4 circuits.

5 Q Let me just show you a couple of other items to
6 get out of the way. In your belongings we found a small
7 sheet of paper that had on it, that has 1823, 1824, 1825,
8 1826, 1827. With a corresponding name attached to each. Do
9 you remember making that item?

10 A Yes, I believe I would have made that after I
11 did the forgery.

12 Q What was the purpose for that item?

13 A The years represent Joseph Smith's visits with
14 the spirit and the words next to the dates are the
15 occurrences or who he took to those meetings.

16 Q The first one, 1823?

17 A Is when he was struck.

18 Q Second one 1825 was?

19 A Alvin. Oh, 1825?

20 Q Excuse me, 1824.

21 A '24 was Alvin. 1825 there was another magician
22 friend of Joseph Smith's, I believe by the name of Lawrence,
23 that there's rumors, I don't believe that I knew this name
24 or anything about this at the time of the forgery, but
25 probably obtained that name actually from Metcalf

1 afterwards. From Brent Metcalf.

2 Q 1826 Blaine, 1827 Emma and you have down here
3 Tiffany's Monthly?

4 A Yes, I believe that's an interview with Martin
5 Harris.

6 Q Mentioned brass kettles?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Now is your memory you were aware of this
9 interview before you made the letter?

10 A Yes, I was aware of that interview before.

11 Q Is that where you got the word kettle from?

12 A I believe kettle was also used in Howe's book
13 but it is probably also up here in this interview.

14 Q Also in your-- Do you remember getting any
15 letters with Palmyra postmarks that you would have used is
16 the sample for this one?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Where would you have got them from?

19 A Probably would have come from Courtney Covers.

20 Q Let's talk about the handwriting. How did you
21 make a determination of what style you were going to use?

22 A The signature of Martin Harris was in a style,
23 early 19th Century style that I had seen other writers use.

24 Q At that time, before you wrote it, did you try
25 to obtain samples of Martin Harris' handwriting?

1 A I obtained signatures, I believe three
2 signatures of Martin Harris was all that I could find.

3 Q Do you know where those, do you remember where
4 they came from?

5 A I'm certain they came from the Church
6 Historian's Office.

7 Q Do you remember which ones they were?

8 A They dealt with various land transactions, as I
9 remember.

10 Q Did you get any of the samples from Dean Jesse?

11 A Let's see, I actually may have obtained other
12 samples. In fact, I'm certain of it that I would have had
13 at least another signature on a legal document that Martin
14 Harris wrote or signed when he was living in Cache County.
15 So I would have had three early signatures and one later
16 one.

17 Q Now you obtained some signature, didn't you,
18 from Richard Anderson?

19 A Yes.

20 Q In fact, that was early as March of '82?

21 A Yes, that would have been the Cache County
22 signature I'm referring to. Or ones that he would have
23 sent me, I don't remember, but they would have been the same
24 documents I already had copies of from the Church
25 Historian's Office.

1 Q These again, were signatures you received
2 before you actually started the letter?

3 A That's right.

4 Q Were you attempting to extrapolate the style
5 that would have been used based on the signature then?

6 A Right.

7 Q Were you ever concerned that there might come a
8 time when there would be some actual handwriting come forth
9 of Martin Harris and it would be able to be compared to
10 yours?

11 A If that happened my thoughts were I had a
12 pretty good idea what the style would look like.

13 Q Do you remember when you actually made it?
14 What month? You sold it January 6th. In relationship to
15 when you sold it when did you actually manufacture the
16 document?

17 A If you can find out Lynn Jacob's travel
18 arrangements, he came to Salt Lake City in either December
19 or January. Well it would have been in December, I believe
20 he came here for Christmas. It would have been the day
21 before he arrived that I actually forged it as far as
22 writing it out and aging it or whatever was taking place the
23 day before he arrived in Salt Lake.

24 Q But you talked to Lynn about it beforehand?

25 A Yes, I had talked to him about it before it was

1 written or forged.

2 Q Tell us the chronology of events in talking
3 with Lynn about it.

4 A I believe that part of it -- I can't remember.
5 I think that just a couple days before he arrived in Salt
6 Lake I read him familar parts of it necessarily which would
7 have been there, my composition of it before I had actually
8 written it in Martin Harris' handwriting. Before that,
9 perhaps a week or two before I told him about it.

10 Q You called him on the phone, he's back east?

11 A I either called him or he called me.

12 Q What did you say?

13 A I told him that I had it. I told him the
14 content and I made arrangements with him to offer it as his
15 own document when he arrived in Salt Lake. I believe he
16 came here for Christmas.

17 Q Did you tell him why you wanted him to offer it
18 as his document?

19 A As I remember, it was actually his idea or his
20 suggestion, although I probably anticipated doing it
21 beforehand. He felt like he could obtain more from the
22 Church. That is at this time we were thinking of offering
23 it to the Mormon Church, than I would be able to.

24 Q Had he had any dealings with the Mormon Church?

25 A Yes. He was always rather proud of the fact

1 that he could obtain quite a bit in his dealings with Don
2 Schmidt.

3 Q Wasn't his dealings mainly with the archivist?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Your dealings had actually been with some of
6 the general authorities?

7 A Right.

8 Q Why did he believe he could get more than you
9 then?

10 A My feeling was in offering it to the general
11 authorities if I were to do it it would appear to be almost
12 a blackmail type of attempt just because of the content of
13 the letter and potential embarrassment to the Church, that I
14 wanted to stay away from. He didn't have any of those
15 feelings as far as if he offended them.

16 Q Was there any concern on your part that this
17 was maybe one too many documents for you to discover and let
18 somebody else take the credit?

19 A Yes. That was also in my mind. Yes, I
20 remember also thinking of that fact.

21 Q Did you tell Lynn at that time where you found
22 the document?

23 A I don't believe that I was specific other than
24 a cover dealer or direct source.

25 Q At that time over the phone did you make up

1 what story he was going to use?

2 A I believe that he was going to use the same
3 source, an unnamed autograph dealer as being the source. Or
4 not autograph dealer, an unnamed cover dealer.

5 Q Did you have anybody in mind or would it just
6 be nebulous?

7 A No one in mind at that time as far as I can
8 tell.

9 Q How many more conversations did you have with
10 him before he came to Utah?

11 A I probably talked to him three or four times
12 about this document before he arrived here.

13 Q Did you actually tell him in any of those
14 conversations supposedly the actual place that you found it?

15 A I can't remember. I doubt that I would have
16 but I may have just because I knew that he wouldn't try to
17 confirm it so there is a possibility I would have mentioned
18 one of the cover dealers.

19 Q Where did your story come up that he used that
20 he was the one that actually went to the place and actually
21 looked in drawers and actually bought it himself? Is that a
22 story you two came up with? Was it your idea? His idea?
23 How did that come up?

24 A The idea was that he actually bought it from a
25 dealer. It's hard to say as far as how we actually came up

1 with that idea but that was the original idea. Since he was
2 going to be offering it as his own document he had to be the
3 one to have made the discovery or whatever.

4 Q What was your agreement between the two of you
5 as to how it would be shared, the proceeds?

6 A The agreement was it was still my document and
7 that I would get the majority of the proceeds. I believe
8 that he-- Let's see, when we actually sold it he may have
9 got some cash but I believe it was mostly in trade that, the
10 agreement was I would be paid off over a period of time. I
11 believe the initial payment, \$10,000.00, I gave him part of
12 that, mostly in trade and he was completely paid off as far
13 as he didn't obtain nearly as much as I did for it out of
14 the \$40,000 we sold it for.

15 Q Your agreement was it was yours but he was
16 going to pose as if he were the finder-owner?

17 A That's correct. And I think my involvement is
18 we told other people was that the source where he obtained
19 it was mine. That he had made an agreement with me in
20 looking for these documents while he was back east, that
21 since it was my idea and my source that we would share 50/50
22 the, any profits that we made. And I think that's what we
23 told other people.

24 Q Let's leave Lynn aside just one second and get
25 back to your motivations. What was the purpose for coming

1 up with the Salamander Letter?

2 A Money. It's a controversial type document,
3 therefore it would be valuable and it was also, again
4 somewhat of an experiment to see the Church's reaction as
5 far as, that always interested me.

6 Q Reaction in what way?

7 A As far as how they would handle it, if they
8 would purchase it, if they would trust him enough, Lynn
9 enough to keep his mouth shut. To enter into some sort of
10 agreement to keep it confidential. If they would pay his
11 exorbitant price he was demanding for it. Their reaction as
12 far as what the contents were, any comments that might be
13 made concerning it.

14 Q Do you consider this to be your most extreme
15 document as far as controversy, as far as the contents?

16 A In ways. In ways I considered the Josiah Stool
17 Letter to be more controversial since it was actually in
18 Joseph Smith's handwriting rather than a second hand
19 account. The Blessing document, doctrinally was also
20 controversial but this is a-- it's obviously a controversial
21 document, more so with the media's help.

22 Q Did you see yourself moving toward the creation
23 of more controversial documents, more involved in the folk
24 magic? Was it a conscious effort on your part?

25 A No, never. Well, it was just like with the

1 creation of the Anthon Transcript. After that I told
2 myself, now I can't forge any more Mormon documents because
3 I don't want to be suspicious. After creating the Josiah
4 Stool Letter I told myself the same thing, no more magic
5 type documents.

6 Q And again no self control because you went
7 ahead?

8 A Well, it was more I knew it would work from
9 just experience and I had a need for the money at the time
10 and I did it although that's true, that my friends would
11 probably tell you that I lack self control.

12 Q Well, you changed your mind, in other words?

13 A Yes. But like it wasn't I was evolving, when I
14 forged this or when I forged this I was thinking of the next
15 magic document I was about to produce or anything. That
16 wasn't in my mind at all.

17 Q When Lynn came in December was your idea at
18 that time to sell it to the Church?

19 A Yes. .

20 Q When you created the document was it your idea
21 to sell it to the Church?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Lynn went ahead and tried to sell it first?

24 A That's right. What do you mean he tried? Yes,
25 under my direction.

1 Q And you had a price determined?

2 A Lynn's price was higher than I thought

3 appropriate but he was determined to get as much out of it

4 as he thought he could.

5 Q How was it he went right to Hinkley? He hadn't

6 dealt with Hinkley before, had he?

7 A No.

8 Q Do you know how it was he arranged for that?

9 A I believe he called Hinkley's office and

10 probably told his secretary that he had a historical

11 document that he wanted to--. I can't remember the details.

12 Q Do you know if he used your name?

13 A He may have said that he was a friend of mine

14 in the document business, or whatever.

15 Q Did it surprise you when Lynn came back and

16 said Hinkley wouldn't buy it?

17 A No, not given the price that Lynn was asking

18 for it.

19 Q Now with the Staal Letter, you were aware that

20 he bought the Staal Letter and it pretty well had been

21 publicized?

22 A That's right.

23 Q Now, were you at all surprised that he refused

24 to buy the Salamander Letter which was a very similar type

25 document?

1 A No. Like I say, a lot of it was almost like an
2 experiment, in my mind as far as what his reaction would be.
3 Lynn doesn't come across as being a faithful Mormon like I
4 do.

5 Q You did?

6 A Or at least like I pretended to. I didn't
7 think that President Hinkley would trust his silence or that
8 he would appreciate Lynn's manner, or boastfulness or
9 whatever. Although I speculate, well, you probably don't
10 want speculation since there is no backing for it so I won't
11 speculate.

12 Q Well, if it is germane to the topic go ahead,
13 as long as you preface it by speculation.

14 A I speculate if I would have been the one to
15 offer it that it would have had the same fate is the Stool
16 Letter.

17 Q Would you have asked the same thing or
18 different?

19 A I wouldn't have asked for nearly the price.

20 Q Lynn comes back, it's not sold. What do you
21 do?

22 A I went to, let's see, I'm trying to think of if
23 before Lynn went to Hinkley if he went to Don Schmidt with
24 it or went to him just afterwards. But I believe it was the
25 next day Don Schmidt knew about it from Lynn or the next day

1 with Lynn's meeting with President Hinkley and that morning
2 I believe I told Don Schmidt that I could obtain complete
3 control over it and would be willing to sell it to the
4 Church for a price. I can't remember, I would get 10 or 15
5 thousand dollars. Don Schmidt told me that he would check
6 with his superiors.

7 That same afternoon, in a meeting with Don
8 Schmidt again, he told me that he had talked with G. Homer
9 Durham and I believe higher up, and that they would make
10 that purchase. I told Don Schmidt that I believed that it
11 could be handled confidentially and that Lynn could be sworn
12 to secrecy. I told him that in the morning. Later, it
13 would have been in a day or two, whenever, we had made
14 contact with Steve Christensen and he had agreed to buy it
15 and if, if we wanted to sell it-- Let's see, I'm trying to
16 get the sequence right, chronology. I believe it was
17 actually before. I believe it was with the statement that
18 if the Church would prefer we could see that it was sold to
19 a faithful member of the Church. If they didn't want
20 --which I spoke very frankly with Don Schmidt about this but
21 I didn't talk to anyone higher up than Don Schmidt. That if
22 the Church was afraid of the publicity of the document now
23 that Lynn knew about it and possibly others, that we could
24 arrange to have it sold to a faithful member who we thought
25 would keep it quiet or handle it the way the Church thought

1 would be appropriate but yet not having the Church
2 officially making decisions.

3 Q Did he get back to you, Schmidt?

4 A After originally it was agreed the Church would
5 make the purchase for the money that I asked, I can't
6 remember the exact sum. But then later, I mean it was a day
7 or two later, in talking with his superiors he told me that
8 they thought it would, it might be more appropriate to have
9 that happen to it as far as a faithful member making the
10 purchase. I told him that I would keep him posted as far as
11 the negotiation with this faithful member.

12 Q No names given?

13 A I think at that time the name of Steve
14 Christensen might have even been given, although it wasn't
15 that next day I talked to him.

16 Q That name came from you?

17 A Yes, I believe so, although, it's hard for me
18 to say because I am told that sometime during this period
19 Steve Christensen had already been in contact with the
20 Church so I'm only giving my side, how I know it from my own
21 experience.

22 Q What date are we talking about here? Right
23 close to the 6th or 1st of January, or after Christmas?

24 A When did Lynn offer it to the Church?

25 MR. BIGGS: When he was home for the holidays.

1 A My first contact with the Don Schmidt, I
2 believe it was the day after Lynn made contact with
3 President Hinkley and I believe that same day the decision
4 was given, later that afternoon, that he would make the
5 purchase/

6 MR. STOTT: What I'm getting at, from the time
7 that you first contacted Lynn to this point, who all knew
8 about it? Lynn, you, perhaps Hinkley and perhaps Schmidt?

9 A Earl Olsen, G. Homer Durham.

10 Q Now anyone else? Had you told anyone else?
11 Had Lynn told anyone else? Your friends, acquaintances?

12 A Sometime during this time period I-- No, during
13 that time period no one.

14 Q When was it you told Michael Marquardt?

15 A That would have been after. Let's see, I was
16 going to say I thought that was after Steve Christensen made
17 the purchase but I'm not sure if that was really true or
18 not. See, I wasn't keeping this confidential since I knew
19 Lynn was going about it, I figured it would get around and
20 everything. There's a chance I told Marquardt before Steve
21 Christensen purchased it.

22 Q Did there come a time you actually gave him a
23 transcript of it?

24 A Yes, he made a transcript of it but I can't
25 remember the date when that would have been.

1 Q Why were you doing this? You knew Marquardt
2 was going to go public?

3 A Yes, I think at the time I told him to keep it
4 quiet for the time being and I believe he agreed to that
5 until it became public.

6 Q Was your agreement with Steve Christensen and
7 semi with the Church, something to the effect that, you
8 know, it was going to be, the contents or even the idea that
9 there was a letter would remain private with them?

10 A Yes.

11 Q But nevertheless you were still talking to
12 people like Marquardt about the letter?

13 A I can't remember when I talked to Marquardt so
14 it's hard for me to say if I talked to him after agreeing to
15 not talk about it or not. Although I'm sure that date could
16 be had as far as when I talked to Marquardt. He keeps good
17 records, as we know.

18 Q There came a time when-- Did you learn that
19 there was some interest by other people in this?

20 A Let's see. Now I think about it I think I did
21 talk to Marquardt before it was offered to the Church or to
22 Steve Christensen. I believe that I, because I know that I
23 talked to Ashworth before it was offered to Christensen and
24 I believe I also talked to Marquardt before I talked to
25 Christensen. I believe, but I can't say for certain.

1 Q Wasn't there some story that some people
2 started bugging you. In fact, I don't remember who it was,
3 weren't you contacted by a friend of yours who was also a
4 dealer who told you he had information, Rick Grunder, that
5 you had the Salamander and somebody wanted to purchase it?

6 A Yes, I remember that.

7 Q Did that come up about this time?

8 A Yes, that would have come up before Steve
9 Christensen purchased it.

10 Q And in fact, you made a copy for these people,
11 a Xerox copy of the Salamander Letter didn't you?

12 A Lynn Jacobs did but I don't believe that he
13 provided that. I think that he made the copy to sell but
14 then later when the agreement with Christensen was to keep
15 it confidential he didn't sell that through Grunder. I
16 remember we were in the Church Office Building when that
17 Xerox was made.

18 Q You, Lynn, Grunder?

19 A Right. I know Grunder was there when it was
20 made.

21 Q The purpose of that was for Grunder wasn't it?

22 A Yes, for Grunder's customer, but I don't
23 believe Grunder actually received a copy of it. Let's see,
24 not at that time.

25 Q But at that time wasn't he aware Steve was

1 A Yes, I believe it was a quick agreement. I
2 believe we talked to him one day and then the next day the
3 deal was made as far as the papers being signed.

4 Q Would you say that was your first meeting with
5 Steve Christensen?

6 A I believe it was yes.

7 Q Introduced to you by Brent Metcalf?

8 A Right. Brent Metcalf and myself. The first
9 meeting I don't believe Lynn was there.

10 Q Were you aware of Steve's background, his
11 interest in these kinds of things?

12 A Yes, I became aware of that through Brent
13 Metcalf.

14 Q Who wrote up your purchase contract and note?

15 A It would have been a secretary of-- Okay, when
16 we arrived at the office, Steve Christensen had an agreement
17 typed up which he had us read to see if we agreed to it. We
18 changed it in that we added this top part where Lynn is
19 selling it to me, who is selling it to Steve Christensen.
20 But it was typed up by Steve's, secretary of Steve
21 Christensen.

22 MR. RICH: The record should reflect we've
23 been here two and a quarter hours for this hour.

24 WHEREUPON, the interview was adjourned at the hour
25 of 3:50 p. m.

INTERVIEWS
CASE OF STATE VS. HOFMANN

FEBRUARY 11, 1987 through MAY 15, 1987

(May 15, 1987)

COPY

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COPY

1 MAY 15, 1987 - 8:53 a.m.

2 PRESENT: Mr. Stott, Mr. Biggs, Mr. Yengich

3 MR. YENGICH: All right, it's May 15, 1987
4 8:53 a.m. Present are Robert Stott, David Biggs, Ron
5 Yengich, Mark Hofmann.

6 MR. STOTT: Did you want to make a statement,
7 Mark, before we proceed?

8 A Yes. Before we ended last times meeting we
9 were talking about what I told Steve Christensen concerning
10 who had seen or had access or copies or whatever of the
11 Salamander Letter. I'm quite certain now, thinking about
12 it, that Mike Marquardt had made a partial transcript of the
13 Salamander Letter before it was shown or purchased by, shown
14 to or purchased by Steve Christensen. I covered myself in
15 that regard by telling him that people had seen it although
16 I did not mention Mike Marquardt's name, but that Xeroxes of
17 it were not available and that full transcripts were not
18 available.

19 Q How did Marquardt obtain a copy of the
20 transcript?

21 A The original by probably a Xerox of the
22 Salamander Letter he saw at my house and wrote down a few
23 lines of its content.

24 Q In other words, you gave him the transcript
25 through you?

1 A He made the transcript through me, that's
2 right.

3 Q Do you remember if he ever obtained a copy of
4 it through you?

5 A If he did it would have been at a later time
6 after it was, after it became available or whatever. I
7 don't believe he did obtain a Xerox from me though.

8 Q Now besides Marquardt and Jacobs, was there
9 anyone else?

10 A Brent Ashworth saw it before it was purchased
11 by Christensen and Don Schmidt saw it.

12 Q To your memory, did any of these people obtain
13 a copy or transcript of it?

14 A Don Schmidt did but he is the only one.

15 Q Anyone else like Dean Jesse?

16 A Dean Jesse obtained his copy through Steve
17 Christensen.

18 Q There came a point when Steve Christensen, who
19 now was the owner, attempted to verify the authenticity of
20 the letter in a couple different ways. One was through
21 forensic means and the other was through historical means.

22 A That's right

23 Q You were aware, first of all, of the historical
24 efforts weren't you?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Mainly through Dean Jesse and Ron Walker and
2 Brent Metcalf?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What did you think overall of that, knowing
5 they were looking at your document from a historical
6 standpoint?

7 A I thought they were probably the best qualified
8 historians to look at it and had previously researched
9 Joseph Smith's alleged magical practices. I was confident
10 that it would stand up under their investigation.

11 Q Can you elaborate on that, why you were so
12 confident?

13 A Because I was confident with the research I had
14 done concerning it which brings up one other point I was
15 going to make. I agreed in the newspaper or have read a few
16 times that I am supposed to be a great Church historian or
17 one of the best Church historians on the face of the earth
18 or whatever, which isn't true, obviously, all though the
19 areas that I researched, I felt like I covered them fairly
20 comprehensively but I wouldn't rate myself with historians
21 such as Dean Jesse or Ron Walker.

22 MR. YENGICH: Really?

23 A Certainly.

24 Q Ron Walker too?

25 A Notice I didn't mention Brent Metcalf although

1 he is specialized in his own little areas of interest

2 MR. STOTT: I don't mean to belabor the point
3 but just one more question in that area. Was it basically
4 you felt so confident in your research or was it you felt
5 like you understood where the historians were coming from
6 and where they were going and how they would react to your
7 document?

8 A Both.

9 Q Let's talk about the attempts by Steve, through
10 scientific means to evaluate your document. Was that
11 something that you suggested to Steve yourself or is that
12 something he did independent of you?

13 A I can't remember for certain. I believe it was
14 probably most likely that I made some statement probably to
15 Brent Metcalf that the document was controversial enough
16 that it would certainly raise a question as to its
17 authenticity by faithful Church members and whoever else,
18 and that every effort should be made possible to have it
19 authenticated forensically and also handwriting and whatever
20 else could be done.

21 Q How did Rendell get involved? Is this a name
22 you gave to Steve?

23 A Yes, he was a name I mentioned. I considered
24 him and I still do, one of the best handwriting or
25 autograph experts.

1 Q Prior to this then how much contact had you had
2 with him and basically what kind of contact was it?

3 A I had had possibly one or two or three
4 transactions with him beforehand. I had-- Do you want me to
5 name them, name the transactions?

6 Q If you would, yes.

7 A I traded to him a John F. Kennedy ALS.

8 Q John F. Kennedy ALS?

9 A Autographed letter signed in his hand.

10 MR. BIGGS: Was that authentic?

11 A Yes, it was. Believe it or not there was an
12 authentic document. I also traded to him a cut signature of
13 Daniel Boone which was not authentic. I also offered him
14 some Mormon money.

15 MR. STOTT: Which ones, do you remember?

16 A One time I offered him one of the handwritten
17 notes which was a forgery, but he told me he did not have
18 that good a market for Mormon money. I sold him a TST.
19 Those are all I can remember for certain.

20 Q Had you purchased anything through him in that
21 time?

22 A Just in trade or whatever. I can't remember
23 that I made any cash purchases but I might have.

24 Q Didn't you buy a letter there from him toward
25 the end, a Joseph Smith letter talking about health?

1 A Yes, this was at a later time; yes I did, which
2 was an authentic letter, I believe.

3 Q What happened to that letter?

4 A It ended up going to Brent Ashworth.

5 Q And that letter, can you describe it just for
6 the record, just what it was, the date or who it was to?

7 A I really can't remember the details. If I saw
8 it I could recognize it.

9 Q That wasn't so much a letter but a statement by
10 Joseph Smith about health?

11 A Right. Virtue or something, yes.

12 Q Any other transactions you had with Rendell
13 after the Salamander Letter, separate from the Salamander
14 Letter?

15 A The one we just mentioned was after the
16 Salamander Letter, I believe. I don't remember any others,
17 no.

18 Q Did you have any role, after telling Steve or
19 giving Steve Kenneth Rendell's name, did you have any role
20 in the authenticating process?

21 A Yes, Steve asked me since I knew Rendell to
22 make arrangements with him to have the document
23 authenticated. I, let's see, for part of the time I was
24 somewhat of a go-between, between Rendell and Christensen
25 although I believe they also had some direct communication.

1 Q Did you know in advance what Rendell would do
2 to go about attempting to authenticate it?

3 A I had a pretty good idea what he would do or
4 what was possible to do. I told him to use every means
5 possible to authenticate it, some of which tests he did not
6 think were necessary but I told him that in my opinion he
7 did not understand, Rendell did not understand the
8 controversial nature of the document and we would be
9 willing to spend thousand of dollars in the authentication
10 process.

11 Q Why were you some concerned? Why were you
12 almost helping to get it authenticated? Was it something
13 you wanted it to prove was authentic or something you wanted
14 to prove to yourself that you could be the authenticators?

15 A Well, before this time I had already felt
16 confident I could be the authenticator as far as whatever
17 tests would be done. I knew it was of a contraversial
18 nature and would be questioned and I wanted to put down as
19 much of that as possible. In other words, to make it appear
20 like the people questioning it were questioning it not for
21 rational reasons but because they didn't want to believe it.

22 Q Was there anything in the testing procedure
23 that was a surprise to you or that you had not anticipated?

24 MR. YENGICH: That's a good question.

25 A Only what was performed by the County

1 Attorney's Office concerning ink cracking.

2 MR. YENGICH: I've been waiting for you to ask a
3 question along those lines.

4 MR. STOTT: I'm referring to what Rendell and
5 Liter did along those lines.

6 A, Ink and paper tests and handwriting and that's
7 all they did.

8 Q So there was nothing you-- You anticipated
9 what you were they were doing basically?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And no concern at all they would somehow come
12 on to the unnatural aging process that you used?

13 A No.

14 MR. BIGGS: Unnatural aging process?

15 A I didn't believe they would even use as
16 sophisticated technique as spectroscopy. I believed they
17 would take a small pin hole sample from the document and
18 apply certain chemicals and determine that it was iron gall.

19 Q Were you aware basically through forensic tests
20 or through document analysis, basically they cannot prove a
21 document is real or authentic. All that he can basically
22 say is we can find no evidence that it is a fake?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Yet it seemed that you were able to use that
25 and turn it around as if the people that authenticated the

1 document. Was that something deliberate on your part to
2 change peoples perceptions kind of, of what forensic people
3 can do?

4 A That's what authentication is, is not being
5 able to find out that it's not authentic.

6 Q It seemed so many people, once it came back
7 from the authentication process say this proves it's
8 authentic because they have now proved it's authentic. In
9 reality what they said was we can't prove it's not
10 authentic.

11 What I'm saying is it seems a lot of people
12 don't understand that, who should understand that and I'm
13 just wondering if you helped to convey that impression?

14 A I might have, I don't know. I think to the
15 same extent as far as the ink cracking testing or whatever,
16 that also does not prove conclusively that a document is a
17 forgery any more than the negative tests would prove that it
18 is authentic, but we can get in to that some other time.

19 Q Anything else on that aspect that comes to your
20 mind on the attempts to authentic it either through
21 scientific means or historical means?

22 A No.

23 Q Now we just mentioned this last time but I want
24 to go into a little bit more detail. You attempted to
25 obtain some samples of Martin Harris' signature, if not his

1 handwriting, didn't you?

2 A Correct.

3 Q And you got some from Dr. Anderson, didn't
4 you, Richard Anderson?

5 A Yes, I did.

6 Q I have a letter here from you dated 9 March of
7 '82 to Dr. Anderson and it talks about three Martin Harris
8 items. Do you remember those items?

9 A Yes, I do.

10 Q Can you tell us for the record what those three
11 items were you were to receive from him?

12 A The 1871 pension application was a Xerox which
13 he sent me. The letter and envelope appearing to be in some
14 sort of indelible blue pencil were items which I had traded
15 to Brent Ashworth.

16 Q So one of the items he sent to you was new to
17 you?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q The others you were already familiar with.

20 MR. BIGGS: Were they your creations? Utah
21 Engraving ones you traded to Brent Ashworth?

22 A They are not.

23 MR. STOTT: That is the Martin Harris letter,
24 isn't it?

25 A It is a Martin Harris letter which is not on

1 the counts.

2 MR. STOTT: Okay, we'll get to that in a
3 second and you can decide one way or the other. Was that
4 other item then or both of those items something that you
5 would have used as far as a sample handwriting in developing
6 this Salamander Letter?

7 A The signatures I would have, yes although not
8 really because these were later signatures and there was
9 some variation between them and what I considered a 1829
10 signature to look like.

11 Q Where did you get your information for what a
12 1829 signature should look like?

13 A From the two or three copies of the signature
14 in possession of the LDS Church.

15 Q During this time there was, maybe I should call
16 it a rumor, I don't know what else to call it, that there
17 was a Palmyra County inscription and in fact, that
18 inscription appears in BYU Studies. Isn't it one that Dean
19 Jesse obtained through you?

20 A Oh, yes. I believe we talked about that
21 before. That was an inscription in a book, yes.

22 Q And that was, is that another one that was
23 developed during this time by yourself in relationship to
24 the Salamander Letter or in that whole process?

25 A That inscription, I believe Dean Jesse acquired

1 from Lynn Jacobs who acquired it from me.

2 Q And that inscription again was one of your
3 creations, is that correct?

4 A Am I supposed to be answering these?

5 MR. YENGICH: Well, the other documents we are
6 not going to talk about. We'll make a note of it and we'll
7 go back to that because they are not on the count?

8 A Although I already answered that question in an
9 earlier interview.

10 MR. YENGICH: Did you answer it in an
11 interview when Brad was here?

12 A Yes.

13 MR. YENGICH: Then answer it.

14 MR. STOTT: I'm trying to see the relationship
15 to the Salamander Letter.

16 A Yes, that's a forged inscription.

17 Q Do you remember that BYU article? It came out
18 about a year ago and the whole article was about your
19 documents and Dean Jesse included a picture of about 12 or
20 13 Martin Harris signatures. Are you familiar with that?

21 A I don't really remember it. Do you have a copy
22 of it? That would have been before or after the bombings?

23 Q After the bombings?

24 A There's a chance I haven't seen it.

25 Q I would like to bring that to you and have you

1 look at those signatures. I think some of them came through
2 you and I would like to make that determination, if
3 possible.

4 There were also, during this time, and we may
5 have talked about this before too, there was a story that
6 you gave concerning an inscription in an early Book of
7 Mormon by Martin Harris, we talked about before, didn't we?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Was that again related to this Salamander
10 Letter? Was it all tied in as part of the same scheme or
11 were they independent?

12 A As far as what I remember, what I talked about
13 concerning the Book of Mormon inscription was rumor that I
14 had heard from other sources, not that I had made up. I
15 think we talked about that earlier.

16 Q And I think you also mentioned there was
17 something about a Martin Harris signature in A View of
18 Hebrew?

19 A Yes, that was the same book that Dean Jesse got
20 his Palmyra inscription from.

21 Q Was that a real book or?

22 A It was a real book.

23 Q Again that was one of your creations?

24 A The signature was, that's correct or
25 inscription was.

1 Q Was that tied in purposefully by you somehow in
2 to the Salamander Letter to help authenticate it?

3 A No. It was, as I remember it predated the
4 Salamander Letter before the idea of creating that letter
5 even came to mind.

6 Q I don't know if we asked you this before so
7 I'll ask it now. Do you remember telling Lynn Jacobs some
8 story to the effect that you had access to or had seen A
9 View of the Hebrews supposedly owned by Oliver Cowdery?

10 A No. I remember him telling me the rumor that
11 he heard about it which I heard the same rumor. So we may
12 have talked about it together. That was that somewhere in
13 Idaho there was supposed to be such a book.

14 Q So that rumor did not originate with you?

15 A No. I believe that the rumor was that an Idaho
16 man by the name of Forrest.

17 Q Baker?

18 A Had either, either had possession of the book
19 or knew where it was or had a copy of it or something, was
20 the rumor, as I remember it.

21 Q And I guess that's all it remained was a rumor?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Book of Common Prayer. That one was charged.

24 A Yes.

25 Q Did we talk about that before?

1 MR. BIGGS: I think so.

2 A Yes we did

3 MR. STOTT: And again, just to tie it up then,
4 how did that fit in basically with the Salamander Letter.
5 That's what I'm getting to.

6 A My intention on that was both to provide
7 further samples of Martin Harris' handwriting and also to
8 find a book with Martin Harris' handwriting in it. We
9 talked about that before as far as the one page, the
10 inscription on one page was forged and the other page was
11 not, the page in Martin Harris' handwriting.

12 MR. BIGGS: How about Mark Hofmann's?

13 A That's right. I should verify that.

14 MR. STOTT: Connected, at least in Steve
15 Christensen's mind, to the Salamander Letter was the Money
16 Buying Agreement Articles.

17 A It was related in his mind?

18 Q In fact, when he sold it in the correspondence,
19 he talked about the two of them together.

20 A When we signed the agreement papers or the sale
21 papers I did not mention those to him. It was only
22 afterwards.

23 Q He obtained that after the Salamander Letter?

24 A Yes, I told him about that after. When he
25 purchased the Salamander Letter he was interested in writing

1 some sort of book or article concerning it and was therefore
2 interested in any other sources that might have something to
3 do with Joseph Smith's folk magical activities, and that's
4 when I came up with the or mentioned the Articles of
5 Agreement.

6 Q You hadn't mentioned that to any other people
7 before this time then?

8 A Yes, I believe I had but not to Steve
9 Christensen.

10 Q What about that? Is that an authentic
11 transcript of a document that is real?

12 A Am I supposed to talk about that?

13 MR. YENGICH: Not really. What are you
14 getting to Bob?

15 MR. STOTT: Again, I think it is directed to
16 the Salamander Letter.

17 A It is not, in that he already purchased the
18 Salamander before becoming aware of this.

19 MR. YENGICH: Move on to something else and
20 let me take a minute to read.

21 MR. STOTT: Something else I want to talk
22 about that I think is also directly related is Bambridge
23 Trial information. Do you at all remember or are aware of
24 the Wesley Walters Story concerning his attempts to obtain a
25 transcript of the Bambridge Trial and your involvement in

1 those attempts?

2 A Yes, I was. That was a few years previous to
3 the Salamander Letter, as I remember.

4 Q What was your involvement, if any, in that?

5 A None.

6 Q He's insinuated that you perhaps contacted this
7 lady in New Mexico after he gave the information, and that
8 somehow you obtained or attempted to obtain the information
9 or the records that she had on the Bambridge Trial. Is
10 there any truth to that at all?

11 A I spoke to him after he had provided me with
12 the addresses and information concerning his research, on
13 one occasion at Gerald and Sandra Tanner's residence, of all
14 places. Basically, I didn't say anything but just let him
15 suppose what he wanted to and by saying, no comment, no
16 comment, as people usually do, he assumed that those were
17 affirmative answers.

18 Q Let me just ask you directly then. Did you
19 ever have contact with this lady that he told you about?

20 A No.

21 Q In Mexico or New Mexico?

22 A No.

23 Q Either directly or through letters?

24 A No.

25 Q Did you ever obtain anything that purported to

1 be information or a transcript of that Bambridge Trial?

2 A No.

3 MR. BIGGS: What was that hesitation about?

4 A Before I make such an absolute statement I want
5 to make sure that I am answering correctly. In other words,
6 I was thinking about the other sources or rumors that I've
7 heard concerning it and wanted to confirm in my mind that I
8 had nothing new or original to say about it.

9 MR. YENGICH: Do the rumors trouble you?

10 A Do what rumors trouble me?

11 MR. YENGICH: The rumors you just mentioned,
12 do they trouble you?

13 A No. What do you mean? All I was thinking of is
14 I've heard various rumors concerning it.

15 MR. YENGICH: Do you want him to discuss
16 those?

17 MR. STOTT: No. My question is--

18 A Just where they might be or whatever, I've had
19 some access to a Bishop Tuttle's papers or some of his
20 papers. He was rumored to possibly have possession of the
21 document and that's just the sort of thing I was thinking
22 of. So as far as if I had anything to do in researching it,
23 maybe I should technically say I have seen or made an effort
24 to look at some of Bishop Tuttle's papers and I guess
25 there's always a chance the document might have been in

1 there or whatever. .

2 Q But you never saw anything else?

3 A No.

4 Q Now again, we've kind of covered this point but
5 I just want to ask you about that January 13, 1873 Martin
6 Harris Letter.

7 MR. YENGICH: It's not charged.

8 MR. STOTT: You wrote a letter here to Dr.
9 Lambert, 15 January of '81 in which you talk about some
10 amulets or one amulet, I'm not sure, and in fact, I guess
11 that is a picture of the one that you gave to Brent Metcalf
12 and wasn't there something else you gave to Lynn Jacobs?

13 A I believe I gave Lynn Jacobs a silver
14 Masonic-type amulet or token.

15 Q And also Brent Metcalf?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Where did you come up with those amulets and
18 what do they signify, if anything?

19 A I became interested in collecting them at one
20 time. I was a member of a token and metal society. It's
21 somewhat related to coin collecting. I guess. I ran a few
22 ads in a publication, or whatever, and wrote several dealers
23 that, I shouldn't say several, a few dealers, who sold such
24 things and at one time had perhaps two dozen or so magical
25 tokens or amulets.

1 Q The particular one that you gave to Brent
2 Metcalf, is that a picture of it, the letter that you sent
3 to Lambert?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Do you remember, is that something you received
6 from someone else, the amulet itself?

7 A It's not charged.

8 MR. STOTT: I'm not looking at it as a forged
9 item.

10 MR. YENGICH: You're talking been the amulet?

11 MR. STOTT: Yes, which supposedly has some
12 characters that are--

13 A I'll talk about it. It was indeed a forgery.

14 MR. STOTT: And it is--

15 A That I made.

16 Q And the purpose of the forgery?

17 MR. YENGICH: Mark, let's talk outside for a
18 second.

19 DISCUSSION HELD OFF THE RECORD

20 MR. STOTT: What I'm getting at, Mark, I think
21 there was some connection between the writing on the amulet
22 and maybe the writing on the Anthon Transcript.

23 A That is correct.

24 Q Can you tell us what you did and what it was
25 supposed to be?

1 A It is various characters from the Anthon
2 Transcript or at least similar to the Anthon Transcript,
3 which I put on this amulet, on one side of it. The other
4 side is a abracadabra triangle.

5 Q Did you represent to people these characters
6 are similar to the Book of Mormon or Anthon Transcript
7 characters?

8 A Yes. As I did with a few other tokens which I
9 had in my possession.

10 Q What was the purpose of putting the abracadabra
11 on one side and the Anthon Transcript characters on the
12 other side?

13 A Nothing in particular.

14 Q Did it show some connection?

15 A The abracadabra triangle which showed it was
16 magic related.

17 Q Let me ask you this: In the search warrant the
18 police found at your residence several metal plates or
19 strips of different metals.

20 A Yes.

21 Q We also found where you had ordered them from a
22 Salt Lake dealer?

23 A Yes.

24 Q What were they for?

25 A For a number of reasons. The only one that I'm

1 charged with or which relates to the charges, is in my using
2 them in the manufacture of postmark plates.

3 Q They were the metal you were going to use to
4 make the plates out of?

5 A Right, copper plates that were photosensitized
6 and exposed to a negative and etched.

7 Q Anything else related to the Salamander Letter,
8 so-called Salamander Letter that we ought to cover, or that
9 you want to say?

10 A Oh, I read through Joseph Knight's account and
11 had a couple other comments to make about that. These are
12 parallels between his account and the Salamander Letter.
13 Joseph Knight describes how Joseph Smith set the plates down
14 and discovered they had been taken away from him on his
15 first attempt to obtain them. He also describes, Joseph
16 Knight also describes how Joseph Smith discovered who to
17 bring in obtaining the plates by looking at the glass or at
18 the stone, as I call it, or as it is called in the
19 Salamander Letter. And also Joseph Knight and the
20 Salamander Letter both describe Joseph Smith's translation
21 process in that he had a stone, the seer's stone in his hand
22 and the words or letters appeared.

23 Q Are you telling us then that you were aware of
24 that Joseph Knight letter and used some of that information
25 in composing the information in the Salamander Letter?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q And those parallels are the ones that you used?

3 A Correct.

4 Q One last thing I just noticed here. If we came
5 across-- no, we didn't. I'll take that back. This is from
6 another place. Do you have any questions, David?

7 MR. BIGGS: There you go. Betsy Ross.

8 A Yes, I remember it.

9 Q I'm showing you a document we found in your
10 home. It alleged to be a letter written by Betsy Ross to
11 Arebella Smith. Have you seen that before?

12 A I have.

13 Q Anything that you did to that letter?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Tell me what.

16 A I altered the date, although I had actually
17 forgotten that I did that until the preliminary hearing
18 when, I guess it was Throckmorton described that so
19 adequately.

20 Q How was that done?

21 A Probably with both a chemical and a mechanical
22 process as far as development. It's hard for me say
23 exactly how it was done without ultraviolet light. The Ross
24 word of the name Betsy was also added to the letter. Both
25 of them were done very crudely as far as I had no

1 anticipation of offering or selling this as a genuine Betsy
2 Ross letter. But it was basically done to satisfy the
3 investors, namely Shanon Flynn and Wilford Carden.

4 Q Where did you get the letter to begin with?

5 A It was a folded letter I would have obtained
6 from a dealer, I can't remember for certain who.

7 Q Is it an authentic document except for the
8 changes which you have mentioned?

9 A Except for those changes, it is.

10 Q There is a bottom line on here. It starts, "I
11 shall" and goes over to "think".

12 A Yes, and then Betsy.

13 Q And the name Betsy Ross. That line, did you
14 add that line as well?

15 A No, only the word Ross.

16 Q Was there a last name other than Ross after
17 Betsy which you eradicated to put Ross there?

18 A I believe I did but I can't say for certain,
19 although I could with the right equipment.

20 Q And you don't know for sure where you got the
21 letter?

22 A I'll make a statement as far as eradicating ink
23 for your experts.

24 Q Okay.

25 A The best way to eradicate ink is chemically,

1 not by using acid or some sort of oxidizer to eliminate it,
2 but to actually wash it chemically from the paper rather
3 than changing it chemically.

4 Q How is that done?

5 A The way that I probably did it on this was
6 ultrasonically and probably with some sort of mild soap
7 solution. I had, although it wasn't confiscated, in my
8 office, a small ultrasonic cleaner that I had previously
9 used to clean coins which also I used to sometimes eradicate
10 ink.

11 MR. BIGGS: How is it done?

12 A It is a small, possibly four by six inch basin,
13 the cleaner is, the ultrasonic cleaner. A little bit of
14 soap solution is added to the place on the document that I
15 want to eradicate and then it is held next to the side of
16 the cleaner with my finger pushing against the part that I
17 am eradicating and rubbed slowing across the cleaner.

18 Q Does that pretty much do it?

19 A Yes. It might have been that it was also
20 scraped or whatnot. I can't remember the details but
21 there's a chance that I would have used some sort of a
22 metal, I believe is what Throckmorton suggested.

23 MR. YENGICH: What do you suggest?

24 A I can't remember the details on this document.
25 I'm just speaking in generalities as far as how I would have

1 done such a thing. I can't remember even if there was
2 actually a last name at the end but I believe there was.

3 MR. BIGGS: Turn it over, if you would. Any
4 changes on the outside?

5 A On the address leaf?

6 Q That's correct?

7 A Not that I remember. I don't remember doing
8 anything at all. Like I say, my only attempt was to date it
9 around the time of her life and to add a name. It was a
10 simple thing, and then to make the ink appear to be the same
11 ink as the text of the letter, but it wasn't intended to
12 fool any experts or anything.

13 Q Did you do any research to determine whether or
14 not Betsy Ross ever signed her name Betsy Ross?

15 A I don't believe that a known Betsy Ross
16 signature is around. I believe it was her, the name from
17 her previous marriage, the examples that are known.

18 Q So you did what amount of research to know
19 that?

20 A Well, I don't know how much research. I knew
21 that just generally from my previous experience in dealing
22 with autographs and handwriting.

23 Q Did you have anybody in mind that you were
24 going to get the money from for this letter? That is to say
25 Flynn says he got in contact with his old mission president.

1 A Yes.

2 Q Did you have this letter prepared and ready to
3 obtain money from someone or did you go to him and then--

4 A No, the document was forged actually some time
5 after obtaining the money from him just to send him a copy
6 of what the document looks like.

7 Q Did he request that, some verification that the
8 letter existed?

9 A I don't believe that he did. I think I just
10 did it. I think, as I remember, Shanon Flynn suggested that
11 would be a nice thing to do, he would appreciate it or
12 whatever. We let him see what it looked like or something.

13 Q Why keep it?

14 A As an oversight.

15 Q ~~So you never intended anyone to see the~~
16 original of this letter?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And the only thing you did was change it so you
19 could get a Xerox copy?

20 A Although I believe a color photograph of it was
21 made, that Shanon Flynn made and sent to Carden.

22 Q You weren't concerned about Mr. Flynn seeing
23 it?

24 A Mr. Flynn what?

25 Q Seeing it, the original.

1 A No.

2 Q What did you use the money for that you
3 obtained through this letter?

4 MR. STOTT: How much was it, do you know?

5 MR. BIGGS: It was about 40 thousand; wasn't
6 it?

7 A Doesn't seem like it was that much but it might
8 have been. I lose track of money. I can't remember for
9 certain, although it was probably at least part of it went
10 to Justin Schiller and purchasing children's books, I would
11 guess.

12 Q None of it was used for the Haunted Man,
13 \$20,000 in the Haunted Man investment, Charles Dickens'
14 manuscript?

15 A Tell me the dates of those two transactions and
16 I'll make a guess.

17 Q I think this was around August.

18 A And when was the Haunted Man?

19 Q September, same year.

20 A Very well might have, yes.

21 Q Anything else?

22 A No, not that I can think of/

23 MR. BIGGS: Talking just briefly about your
24 transactions with the Wilding group. Your first transaction
25 I think was for 18 rare books. You told them you could

1 purchase them for a certain amount of money and sell them
2 for about twice that amount of money?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Did you ever have 18 rare books?

5 A No.

6 Q Did you ever purchase 18 rare books with the
7 money they gave you?

8 A No.

9 Q Did you ever sell rare books to give them back
10 the money that you gave them?

11 A No.

12 MR. STOTT: How did you get the money that you
13 gave them back?

14 A It would have been from another fraudulent
15 transaction most likely, or certainly. But I can't remember
16 for certain how I did or what, that transaction.

17 MR. BIGGS: The second transaction you had
18 with them was for Brigham Young papers, said that you had
19 come across so Brigham Young papers and you gave them back
20 some cash but you also owed them more profit or at least
21 what you told them was profit, and you said, let's see roll
22 it over into these. Was there any Brigham Young papers you
23 were going to purchase with the new money they gave you?

24 A No.

25 Q Did you ever purchase any Brigham Young papers

1 with the money they gave you?

2 A No.

3 Q Did you ever sell any Brigham Young papers and
4 give them any money back?

5 A No.

6 Q I think the third transaction you had with them
7 was to purchase--

8 A I keep thinking it was four. Was the Dickens
9 document, was that the third one?

10 Q Right, Charles Dickens Haunted Man and you got
11 approximately \$160,000. Did you use that money to purchase
12 that document?

13 A No.

14 Q Can you recall what you used that money for?

15 A Let's see, when you say I got \$160,000, was
16 that part of the money that was rolled over or was that new
17 cash that I obtained?

18 Q New cash.

19 A \$100,000 of it-- No, I believe that is
20 incorrect, I don't believe there was \$160,000 new cash.

21 Q How much do you think you got new cash?

22 A Maybe around 120 thousand or so.

23 Q Okay, let's not split hairs.

24 A \$100,000 of that I think we already went over
25 this, went to Deseret Book Company as payment for the

1 Joseph Smith Denim Letter that the Deseret Book obtained
2 under my direction from Marks.

3 Q There's a little confusion because when you
4 went back to them a 4th time and told them you wanted
5 another approximately \$160,000 to purchase the Oath of a
6 Freeman from Lynn Jacobs, that \$100,000 went that same day
7 to Deseret Book.

8 A So I was wrong then. The \$160,000 or whatever
9 there was, yes, this transaction was the 120 thousand I was
10 referring to, that was the Oath of the Freeman deal and that
11 was the money that went to Deseret Book Company. The money
12 from the--

13 Q Haunted Man?

14 A Haunted Man document. I would presume most of
15 that or some of that, as I remember the deal, I think that
16 it went to Ken Wooley.

17 Q We know Ken Wooley got about \$100,000 at one
18 time.

19 A That day or the next day or something, I would
20 have to see the timing but I believe that's where the money
21 went.

22 Q Okay.

23 MR. STOTT: There was a Haunted Men
24 manuscript; is that correct?

25 A Yes.

1 Q You had nothing to do with that creating that
2 document?

3 A No

4 MR. YENGICH: There still is one, we hope.

5 A Yes.

6 Q And that is the one that Schiller and Wapner
7 were going to purchase for you?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Did you see that and look it over?

10 MR. BIGGS: Wilford has the major portion of
11 that investment.

12 A He has some portion of it, that's correct.

13 Q About \$110,000?

14 A I believe he invested \$110,000 but I don't
15 believe that money actually went to, I'm quite certain that
16 that money did not go to the Haunted Man Manuscript. In
17 other words, was not paid off to Justin Schiller for it,
18 although, he I believe investe--

19 Oh, no. That isn't correct, he wired that money
20 so that would have gone directly to--

21 Q He didn't give it to you?

22 A No, that's correct. He wired that directly to
23 to the fund, or whatever. Who did we buy that from?

24 Q Some library or--

25 A FolkHeiner, Forthsheimer? He wired the money

1 directly to.

2 MR. STOTT: Let's go on the McClennin
3 Collection because some of that goes back pretty far, we'll
4 talk a little bit about that, okay?

5 A Okay.

6 Q I would like to do that just part of it, not up
7 to the murders but early on when did you developed an idea
8 concerning the McClellin Collection.

9 A When did I develop it?

10 Q Yes, the idea.

11 A Probably around 1982 or '83-type of thing, I
12 would guess.

13 Q What was it that came in to your mind which
14 triggered it and what was your idea?

15 A Don Schmidt at one time in, well actually even
16 before then, I had seen a statement or read a statement
17 concerning a number of diaries, papers or whatnot, that
18 McClellin claimed to have had. I believe this was in a
19 letter which he addressed to Saints Herald which was an RLDS
20 publication in the late 19th Century. I knew those
21 documents had not in been purchased by the LDS Church, BYU,
22 the Reorganized Church or Yale University, Huntington or
23 other large collections, large collectors of LDS Church
24 documents and were, therefore, still missing or unknown as
25 far as where their present location was. Which was the

1 basic source of the rumor that I had located that location.

2 I had spoken to Don Schmidt, I would guess in
3 '83, somewhere around there, and told him that I knew where
4 the material was and he also interestingly told me that he
5 had a pretty good idea where it was too. He had a name and
6 address, which I, let's see, from a location in Texas.

7 Q Did he give you that name and address?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Did you follow it up?

10 A No.

11 Q What was your purpose for-- Was it in '83 that
12 you began to tell them that you had access to it?

13 A Or that I knew where it was.

14 Q Yes.

15 A Somewhere around there.

16 Q Why were you doing this? What was in the back
17 of your mind? Was some scheme starting to form?

18 A Not at that time. It was just like all the
19 other stories I told people just to make them think I was
20 the great document sluth or whatever, that I had located
21 some other important documents. Also, the idea would have
22 been in locating some known, lost documents, it would have
23 given credibility to me as a document finder as far as many
24 of these documents were known to have been missing or lost
25 or whatever. But where other forgeries, without any basis

1 in Church history, as far as any in written basis in Church
2 history, no basis.

3 Q Did you ever attempt to find a so-called
4 McClellin Collection?

5 A No.

6 Q Did you ever go out and do some research or
7 visit anybody?

8 A No/ Dawn Tracy did.

9 Q For example, were you aware and we are talking
10 about before 1985 of the Hugh Nibley Story with the
11 McClellin Collection, for example?

12 A Yes, I heard that. I can't remember exactly
13 when. I heard both that he had discovered its location and
14 there were also rumors to the effect that the second
15 facsimile to the Book of Abraham was in those documents.

16 Q Now were you aware during this time or
17 subsequent time that the RLDS archives actually had some
18 correspondence concerning McClellin or somebody who was
19 familiar with him that mentioned some of these items that
20 might be in it?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Had you had access to a copy of that?

23 A Yes, I had. That was the document I was
24 referring to. I believe it appeared in the Saints Herald.

25 Q What about it? Were you aware in the New York

1 Library there was some materials relating to what might be
2 in the McClellin Collection? Were you aware of that?

3 A Yes, I believe I was aware of that.

4 Q Did you see that or go to the New York Library
5 or--

6 A From some source I obtained a copy. I didn't
7 acquire it directly from the New York Public Library.

8 Q Did it evolve over a period of time that you
9 began to keep almost an inventory of what might be in the
10 McClelland Collection and start to tell people or is it
11 something that you just sat down and thought up at once?

12 A That's what it was, something I thought of from
13 taking pieces from the different items and adding a few from
14 the different alleged items that were supposed to be
15 contained in the Collection and I made up a few as well.

16 Q When it was all said and done what did you
17 purport the McClellin Collection to contain?

18 A I told different people different things. I
19 told people it contained the second facsimile to the Book of
20 Abraham and also some other information. I told them it
21 contained affidavits from a number of Church leaders and
22 other individuals in the Church such as Emma Smith, Oliver
23 Cowdery, Joseph Smith himself, I believe. I believe I said
24 it contained an affidavit of some sort from his father,
25 Joseph Smith, Sr. I described it as containing a number of

1 diaries or journals,

2 Q When did it start to come to your mind that
3 rather than just telling people that you had access to it
4 you were actually going to use that in a scheme to obtain
5 money?

6 A On some occasion when I needed money or felt a
7 need for money is when I made that that transfer from just a
8 story of something that I knew where it was and could obtain
9 it, to actually actively trying to pursue it and obtain it.

10 Q Was this sometime when you approached Al Rust?

11 A Right, Al Rust was the first one.

12 Q Before you approached Al Rust was the story you
13 were giving out, were you emphasizing the controversial
14 nature of the material or--

15 A Yes, with Al Rust I believe.

16 Q I know you did with Al, but with other people
17 during that time?

18 A Yes. Most historians would feel like any
19 historical Church matter from that early time period would
20 have been controversial in nature. In other words, varied
21 somewhat from the official, or history which has evolved.

22 MR. BIGGS: You said that you put together a
23 kind of recipe what was in the McClellin Collection and
24 would tell people different things?

25 A Right.

1 Q And it changed over from just telling people so
2 to something that you could obtain and would obtain when you
3 needed money?

4 A Right.

5 Q So you went to Al Rust in April of '85 and you
6 get \$150,000. What did you need that much money for in
7 April of 1985?

8 A You tell me from my bank records. Where did
9 the money go?

10 Q The money was given to you in a cashier's check
11 and you and Rust got on a plane and it never went in to
12 your account?

13 A That's right. It went to various sources, do
14 you want me to name the sources where, as I remember?

15 Q Yes if

16 MR. YENGICH: No.

17 A The money went to various sources. That trip
18 we went to a New York book fair. It purchased a number of
19 books. Let's see, that wouldn't have been nearly \$150,000,
20 obviously.

21 Q Those would have been some pretty nice books.

22 A There were some pretty nice books. That was
23 also when I made payment for that last Joseph Smith Letter
24 we were talking about that I had purchased from Rendell/
25 That was some books they had that Schiller and Wapner told

1 me about that I purchased and I'm sure, I presume that
2 Schiller and Wapner received some sort of commission for
3 those or whatever, I don't know exactly how that transaction
4 worked.

5 Q So you bought books at a book fair?

6 A I remember I owed Lynn Jacobs some money and I
7 remember purchasing some books for him at the fair also.

8 MR. BIGGS: Did you come home with any money?

9 A Yes, I'm sure I did. Was there something in my
10 account at a later time, a week or so later?

11 Q (Indicating in the negative)

12 A I lived it up in New York didn't I. Let me
13 think about that, because I know I can think of other places
14 where it went.

15 Q And when you got home, Mr. Rust was, after a
16 period of time somewhat concerned about his purchase?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And you showed him three receipts?

19 A Yes.

20 Q That you had mailed something from New York?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you actually mail something from New York?

23 A Yes, I did.

24 Q What was that?

25 A They would have been the books I purchased in

1 New York.

2 Q What did you tell Mr. Rust that you mailed from
3 New York?

4 A In fact, I still have those receipts
5 incidentally. I told him it was the McClellin Collection/

6 MR. STOTT: When you approached Al Rust, what
7 was your intention as far as getting the money back to him?
8 I mean, you must have had a plan. I mean, getting \$150,000
9 from him and there's no such thing as the McClellin
10 Collection. Somehow were you going to get the money back to
11 him or were you just going to take it, period?

12 A No, it would have gone back to him.

13 Q Did you have an idea at that time?

14 A Yes, I'm sure I did. The question is if I can
15 think of it.

16 MR. BIGGS: Wasn't that just about two weeks
17 after you had given the Oath of a Freeman to Schiller and
18 Wapner?

19 A Yes. That's probably what I had in mind was
20 the money would be not too long coming back from that.
21 Let's see, actually he was paid, although we conflict in
22 what money was paid back when I got that money from First
23 Interstate Bank as far as it went to a list of items of
24 money that I owed him. And on that list was the money for
25 the McClellin Collection but he, I think in preliminary

1 hearing, said that was an independent transaction from what
2 the repayment money was for, or whatever.

3 MR. STOTT: According to him there was a big
4 amount of money you owed him prior to that.

5 A That's right. That would have been false
6 profits or alleged profits on other transactions.

7 Q There came a time, and we are talking March of
8 '85, and your deal was to bring it back and sell it from his
9 office and yet this went on until October. Why was it you
10 were able to put him off? Was this frustrating to you? Was
11 it your plan to put him off that long or what was going on?

12 A No, my plan wasn't to put him off that long but
13 it just worked that way, just kept on going. That it, I
14 believe that initially was the idea that the Oath of a
15 Freeman would provide the funds but then when that didn't
16 happen, I approached the Church, with President Hinkley
17 specifically, with the fact that the McClellin Collection, I
18 wanted the Church to obtain it or at least to prevent some
19 people from obtaining it who might use it in a negative sort
20 of fashion against the Church.

21 Let me ask you this: You say you approached
22 President Hinkley directly. Is this before you were
23 introduced to Pinock by Christensen?

24 A Yes.

25 Q When would this have--

1 MR. BIGGS: Let's give you some surroundings.
2 You got the money from First Interstate the last week of
3 June of '85 and that was the time President Hinkley was in
4 East Germany.

5 A I remember. My intention was, I tried to get
6 Carden to put up the funds for the McClellin Collection but
7 before talking to him I had talked to President Hinkley and
8 gotten his support as far as we need to make the purchase.

9 MR. STOTT: Do you remember when you first
10 talked to President Hinkley about this?

11 A President Hinkley, I told him that a person in
12 Salt Lake had gone in with me on it, had put up the money
13 for it. That I was anticipating being able to come up with
14 the money from another source, which didn't happen. That
15 this other person was getting anxious to get his money out
16 of it and that I might, and I was feeling him out as far as
17 the possibility of getting money from the Church to make the
18 purchase. We left it, after the meeting, we just left it at
19 the point that if things got real desperate or if I needed
20 to get some money to let him know.

21 Q Was there an idea here conveyed here that the
22 collection would then be sold to the Church or donated to
23 the Church?

24 A The idea was to prevent it from falling in to
25 the enemy's hands.

1 Q What did you tell him about what it contained
2 and what the enemy was doing?

3 A Not too much. How can I put this?

4 MR. YENGICH: Put it honestly.

5 A Well, of course, I basically told him that I
6 could tell him what my fears were concerning its getting in
7 to the enemy's hands, or whatever. And that I would, if he
8 wanted to know, if he asked the questions or whatever, this
9 was a previous technique or thing that we had done. I guess
10 its almost a way of protecting him from knowing something he
11 doesn't want to know. And his interest wasn't so much in
12 having the Church obtain it as having it going someplace
13 where-- In fact, I would almost say he almost didn't want
14 the Church to obtain it, he just wanted to make sure it did
15 not fall in to the enemy's, hands which was good since I
16 knew I didn't have it, I knew the Church couldn't obtain it.

17 Q Did you tell him what was contained in the
18 letters?

19 A I don't believe I gave him any details.

20 Q Did you tell him there was controversial items?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Now, can you put a time or date on this?

23 A It would have about before I met with Carden.

24 MR. YENGICH: How much before you met with
25 Pinock?

1 A Let's see, it was also, this was, I believe
2 the reason why. See, sometime after this transaction with
3 Rust we were talking about, he, Rust wrote a letter to the
4 Church or to President Hinkley and made some comment about
5 that he wanted to get his money for the McClellin
6 Collection which he understood the Church was acquiring or
7 whatever, and this whole conversation which took place
8 beforehand with Hinkley pretty much prepared him or set him
9 him up for that. Therefore, I don't think it really raised
10 any question in Hinkley's mind or whatever.

11 Q So Hinkley had already been told by you there
12 was a Salt Lake investor?

13 A Right, and he was anxious to get his money.

14 Q That was Rust?

15 A Right.

16 Q Did you subsequently talk with President
17 Hinkley about the letter with Al Rust?

18 A Did I talk to him about the letter? I remember
19 doing that at a later time, after he got back from East
20 Germany or wherever he was.

21 Q Did he ask you why in the world does Al Rust
22 say we've got the collection?

23 A No, he didn't say anything about that.

24 Q Did you try to explain that?

25 A No. I actually had not seen the letter. I

1 just knew something, Al Rust told me about its contents.

2 Q Wasn't that a problem that Al Rust was saying
3 that, you know, I understand the Church has it and, of
4 course, the Church knew they didn't have it?

5 A Yes, no, that didn't raise a problem in my mind
6 because I knew that Hinkley knew that I was protecting the
7 collection from Rust and anyone else as far as where it
8 was. He knew I had previously told him that I had the
9 material in a safe deposit box in Salt Lake City and that.

10 See, Hinkley, his concern was that if this
11 disgruntled investor, he wanted to make sure he didn't reach
12 the point where he would make public or try to obtain the
13 collection. The actual meeting that I had with him was more
14 to-- The idea I had when I went to Arizona to talk to
15 Carden was that he would obtain phone confirmation,
16 telephone confirmation from President Hinkley that it would
17 be nice of him to buy out this other investor named Al Rust
18 or whatever. Although I didn't realize that he wouldn't be
19 available, that he would be, that he was out of the country.
20 I've communicated with President Hinkley when he's been out
21 of the state before but hadn't, and found that it was
22 difficult to get any sort of confirmation or communication
23 with him when he was in East Germany.

24 Q So your idea was to go to Carden?

25 A And explain the situation to him and have

1 Carden receive confirmation from Hinkley that Hinkley was
2 aware of the transaction and that it would be, that he would
3 confirm the transaction, that Hinkley would.

4 Q What was the transaction to be?

5 A That Carden would, first of all Carden wanted--
6 What he wanted to do, if he obtained permission or approval
7 from Hinkley he would just donate the money. I told him all
8 I wanted was a loan and I would pay him off. I was still
9 confident at some time the Oath of a Freeman would come by
10 so I represented it as a loan.

11 Q So you represented to him that you had the
12 collection and wanted to get your money back?

13 A Yes, I believe.

14 MR. BIGGS: Was it the understanding that Mr.
15 Carden was going to pay off Rust's interest in the
16 collection?

17 A That was the understanding which I left Hinkley
18 with.

19 Q Was that what you would have done with the
20 money if Carden gave it to you?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Where was the collection to go as far as Carden
23 and Hinkley understood?

24 A That was, I believe, left pretty much up in the
25 air with Carden as far as how the Church would obtain it or

1 what would happen to it.

2 Q What was in your mind. Because you didn't have
3 a collection?

4 A What was in my mind is President Hinkley would
5 be happy if eventually I could tell him that I had seen to
6 it that the document would not fall in to the wrong hands.
7 My speaking with Hinkley, like I said wasn't so much-- See
8 you have to remember that this was after the time of the
9 Salamander Letter and the Church was a little bit concerned
10 as far as its public relations in what they were obtaining,
11 if they were trying to buy up embarrassing documents or
12 whatever. He wasn't so concerned, especially when he found
13 out other people knew about this material, to actually
14 obtain it, as to just see that the right people got it.

15 In other words, it wasn't until Pinock entered
16 the picture and I needed to add, I didn't go into-- With
17 Pinock I needed to sound more straight as far as the Church
18 would actually end up with it. That's what was that whole
19 idea as far as the Church actually taking possession of it.
20 We didn't discuss the Church would take possession of it
21 when I spoke with President Hinkley.

22 Q The last day or so in June, how many times did
23 you meet with President Hinkley about the McClellin
24 Collection?

25 A Altogether?

1 Q Prior to meeting with Pinock?

2 A Prior to meeting with Pinock?

3 Q Yes in the last week of June?

4 A I would guess three times.

5 Q After meeting with Pinock and up to the
6 bombings, how many times did you meet with President
7 Hinkley about the McClellin Collection?

8 A I believe once or twice/

9 Q I want to talk to you about Dawn Tracy. There
10 came a point where rather than just telling some of your
11 associates about the McClellin Collection, you started to
12 tell the news media?

13 A Yes, that was basically at the insistance of
14 Lynn Jacobs. In fact, she called--

15 Q When you say she, who is that?

16 A Dawn Tracy called oh, I guess a number of
17 occasions.

18 Q Do you know how she learned about it? Was it
19 through Lynn?

20 A Oh, there were pretty general rumors flying
21 around. I don't know exactly how she found out about it but
22 she must have known Lynn was involved or knew something
23 about it. Finally Lynn promised her that or told her that
24 he would see to it that I called her and, which I did
25 against my will, basically. I didn't really want to get

1 into it all. But there was one time when I did talk to her.
2 We were on my car phone. Lynn Jacobs was in the car
3 although he kept his mouth shut so she wouldn't know that he
4 was there. I had a little microphone on the ceiling.

5 MR. STOTT: That's pretty hard for him.

6 MR. YENGICH: Leave that on.

7 A And basically didn't tell her much except I
8 told her I had obtained it or whatever and it was going, I
9 remember saying something to the effect that it was going to
10 some source who wanted to remain anonymous. It was not
11 going to the Church. I can't remember when this
12 conversation took place.

13 MR. STOTT: In July. So you say your
14 conversation was over the phone or didn't you have a face to
15 face meeting with her?

16 A I don't believe I've ever met her face to face.

17 Q And did you give her any more information than
18 you had been giving out to your friends? Were you building
19 the story or was it pretty much the same?

20 A I might have said-- I can't remember.

21 Q Was it your intention to indicate to her that
22 you had the collection or that it was at the Church or that
23 it was at with a third party?

24 A That it was with a third party, I believe at
25 this time is what I was talking about. I can't remember. I

1 know I wouldn't have told her the Church had it. I may have
2 either told her I was in the process of obtaining it or it
3 was in the hands of an anonymous third party.

4 Q Were there any others you spoke with about the
5 McClellin Collection that you remember?

6 A Not that I remember. Were there? I can't
7 remember any.

8 Q Was it this time when we are talking, we are
9 talking July or so of '85, that you started to be concerned
10 or think about Papyrus?

11 A Might have been. Might have about around the
12 time that I called Rendell.

13 MR. BIGGS: First part of September?

14 MR. STOTT: Why did you include the Papyrus as
15 part of the McClellin Collection? Did you have information
16 from some sources that he might have it?

17 A Just from the rumors that originated with Hugh
18 Nibley, as far as the Papyrus.

19 Q Didn't you also add the so-called Canadian
20 Revelation?

21 A Yes, that was also supposed to be contained.
22 In fact, I remember specifically when I included that in the
23 list of the material that was in the McClellin Collection
24 was when I was eating lunch one time with Brent Metcalf. I
25 think I mentioned it a couple times before.

1 Q Was that at Wendy's again?

2 A No, this was at the Hires restaurant on 4th
3 South.

4 MR. BIGGS: I have one question, and I have to
5 ask it because I may be hit by a bus tomorrow. One of the
6 pieces of the Papyrus you cut up and we have one little
7 piece of it.

8 A Right.

9 Q Where are the other pieces?

10 A Mostly destroyed.

11 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded at the hour
12 of 10:30 a.m.

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1 MR. YENGICH: 10:00 o'clock, 5-27-87 at the Utah
2 State Prison. Present outside of the meeting room are
3 Detective Jim Bell, David Biggs and Robert Stott. I'm Ron
4 Yengich. My client, Mark Hofmann, is in the room within
5 which we have conducted the interviews.

6 It is my understanding that we were going today
7 to discuss the remaining issues relative to the McClellin
8 Collection which would take approximately 30 minutes, and
9 then begin a debriefing by Dective Bell with the assistance
10 of Mr. Biggs and Mr. Stott on the two homicides.

11 Mr. Hofmann has indicated to me, as his counsel, that
12 he does not desire Mr. Bell in the room to conduct this
13 questioning. That he is prepared to answer questions, as he
14 has before, by Mr. Biggs and Mr. Stott and it is my
15 understanding that is not satisfactory to the prosecution.

16 I can also indicate that he indicates his reason for
17 that is his present housing situation at the Utah State
18 Prison and it is the determination of the gentlemen for the
19 prosecution that they not go forward today until Detective
20 Bell can be present and I understand that, and I guess the
21 only other thing I would add is that I'm going to talk with
22 my client relative to that and see if we can settle this
23 issue once and for all.

24 MR. STOTT: It is our position that we had an
25 arrangement for several days to the effect that Jim Bell

1 would be present and would lead the interrogation concerning
2 the homicides. That if Mr. Hofmann wants to abrogate that
3 agreement, that we will not proceed with the interrogation
4 unless that agreement is lived up to.

5 Our office has nothing to do with where or how or to
6 what extent Mark Hofmann is housed at the prison. That is an
7 issue that is completely in the hands of the prison
8 officials and we will not be part of any attempt to alter
9 those conditions.

10 MR. BIGGS: Could I point out something, and
11 that is that the prosecution, we believe, has complied with
12 all of the conditions of the preagreement and we do not
13 believe Mr. Hofmann has complied by refusing to talk about
14 the homicides in the presence of a police officer and
15 investigator, Detective Bell. And these particular
16 interviews with Mr. Hofmann, as far as the prosecution is
17 concerned, have ended unless and until Detective Bell is
18 allowed to question Mr. Hofmann concerning his homicides.

19 MR. YENGICH: And it is my position, for the
20 record, that although I have no personal objection to Mr.
21 Bell asking the questions, that nowhere does it state that
22 Detective Bell has to be present, number one. And number
23 two, Mr. Hofmann is prepared to proceed today and answer
24 whatever questions Mr. Biggs and Mr. Stott want to ask.

25 MR. BIGGS: It was never indicated in the plea

1 agreement who was going to be there and who was not going to
2 be there. There was never any statement by the defense,
3 either Mr. Yengich or your client that Detective Bell or
4 Farnsworth or the investigators of the prosecutor's office
5 would not be allowed in the interrogation. That has been
6 the case up until today.

7 MR. YENGICH: We disagree on that, Mr. Biggs,
8 so that is not my understanding. Just so we understand, I
9 guess we can get mad at one another and I'll tell him okay,
10 we won't go. If you want me to try to work it out, fine.
11 If not--

12 MR. STOTT: I think you need to work it out but
13 our position is unless he wants to change, we're through and
14 we'll report to the Board what happened and we're through.

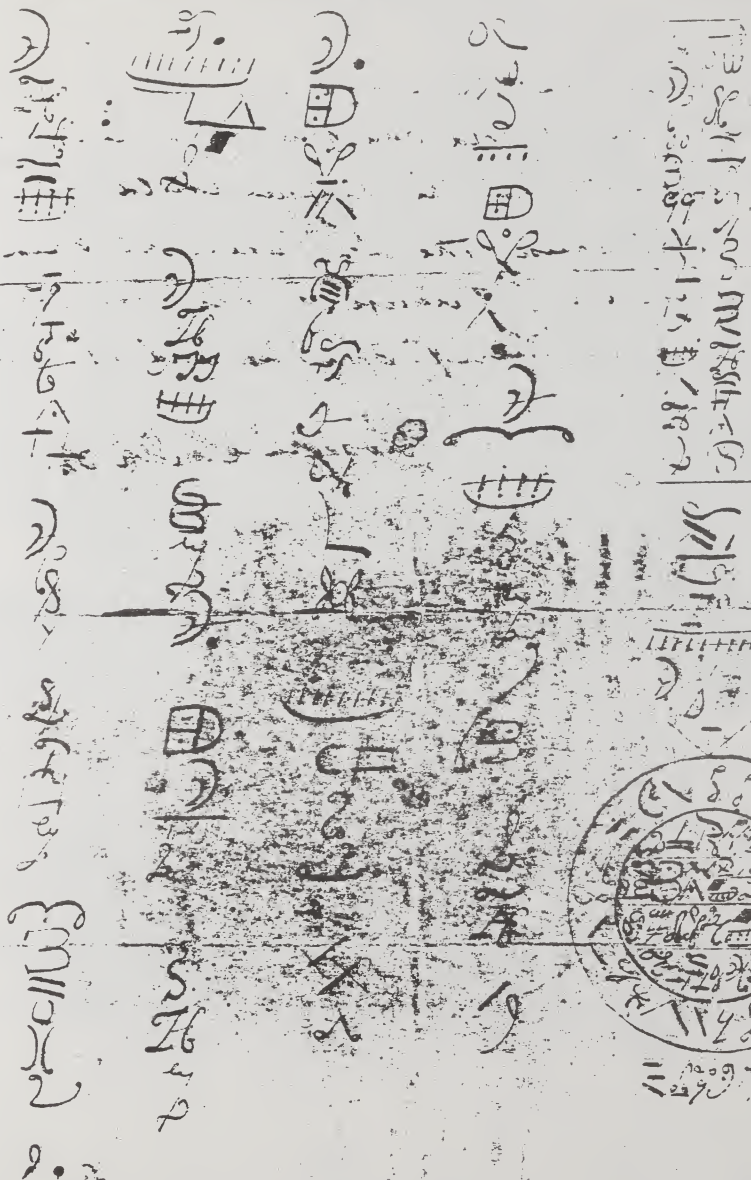
15 MR. YENGICH; He doesn't go to the Board for
16 quite a while, so I'll talk to him.

17 WHEREUPON, the proceedings were concluded at the
18 hour of 10:05 a. .

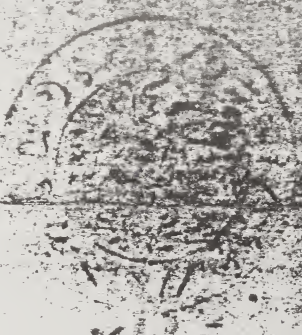
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EXHIBITSDESCRIPTION

A	Anthon Transcript
B	Jos. Smith III Blsq.
C	White Notes
D	Lucy Mack Smith Letter
E	Josiah Stowell Letter
F	E. B. Grandin Contract
G	General Dunham Letter
H	Book of Common Prayer
I	Witmer to Walton Conrad
K	Witmer to Bithell Todd
L	Desseret Currency Notes
M	Emma Smith Hymnal
N	Bridger Note
O	Martin Harris to W.W. Phelps letter
P	Betsy Ross Letter
Q	Oath of a Freeman



These operations were followed by a
d. from the plates of gold and silver. The
to which the gold and silver were
added for the purpose of the gold and silver
which was the result of the operations of
the gold and silver.



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a blessing, given to Joseph Smith, 3^d, by his father, Joseph Smith, Junr, on Jan. 7 1844

Blessed of the Lord is my son Joseph, who is called the third, - for the Lord knows the integrity of his heart, and loves him, because of his faith, and righteous desires. And, for this cause, has the Lord raised him up: - that the promises made to the fathers might be fulfilled, even that the anointing of the progenitor shall be upon the head of my son, and his seed after him, from generation to generation. For he shall be my successor to the Presidency of the High Priesthood: a Seer, and a Revelator, and a Prophet, unto the Church; which appointment belongeth to him by blessing, and also by right.

Truly, thus saith the Lord: if he abides in me, his days shall be lengthened upon the earth, but, if he abides not in me, I, the Lord, will receive him, in an instant, unto myself.

When he is grown, he shall be a strength to his brethren, and a comfort to his mother. Angels will minister unto him, and he will be wafted as on eagle's wings, and be as wise as serpents, even a multiplicity of blessings shall be his. Amen.

Jan. 17, 1844.
Joseph Smith
Blessing

C. S. L. City Jan. 5 1849
 No. 97 \$5.25
 GOOD to N. K. Whitney or Bearer
 on demand. Bingham Young
 \$5.25 Thomas Bullock, Hider C. Kimball
 Clerk

LDS-85-200-36

C. S. L. City Jan. 2, 1849
 No. 15 \$3.25
 GOOD to N. K. Whitney or Bearer
 on demand. Bingham Young
 \$3.25 Thomas Bullock, Hider C. Kimball
 Clerk

LDS-85-200-37

C. S. L. City Jan. 2, 1849
 No. 18 \$5.00
 GOOD to N. K. Whitney or Bearer
 on demand. Bingham Young
 \$5.00 Thomas Bullock, Hider C. Kimball
 Clerk

LDS-85-200-39

C. S. L. City Jan. 9, 1849
 No. 143 \$1.00
 GOOD to N. K. Whitney or Bearer
 on demand. Bingham Young
 \$1.00 Thomas Bullock, Hider C. Kimball
 Clerk

LDS-85-200-35

Manchester January 23^d 1829

Dear Sister

Exhibit D

It is my pleasure to inform you of a great work which the Lord has wrought in our family, for he has made his will known to Joseph in dreams and it pleased God to show him where he could dig to obtain an ancient record engraven upon plates more of pure gold and this he is able to translate. Those favoured of God in all ages have had to suffer persecutions for his name's sake and so it is with us there being such a determined effort in this place to thwart the translation that Joseph was obliged to remove his wife to Pennsylvania, nevertheless on account of negligence the translation of the first part of the record was carried off by some unknown person but God is faithful and the work is now about to proceed; yesterday Mr. Smith and myself returned from a visit to Pennsylvania which occupied us about the last 3 months in singing praises to our God and it is natural in times of rejoicing that we should think on the welfare of our kin; my object in rehearsing these events is to soften your hearts that you may seek for a witness of the truth of this work, for the Lord himself has said that they that seek shall find and to them that knock it shall be opened. I now come to say something of the record it was placed in the earth many hundred years ago by the forefathers of our Indians, they descended from a people of the Lord whose name was Lehi he fled from Jerusalem with his family and also his wife's brother's family a few days before Nebuchadnezzar besieged the City and layed it in ashes for although Lehi prophesied unto the Jews in the name of the Lord that they must repent of their sins yet they would not, neither would they believe the wonders which were shown to him in dreams concerning Christ that he should be Crucified, therefore God commanded the people of Lehi to get out of Jerusalem and flee into the wilderness and at length they were directed to enter upon the Land of America: now a part of the people of Lehi whose head was named Laman a son of Lehi became Lamanites and they sought to exterminate their more righteous brethren who were called the people of Nephi therefore

God cast off the people of Laman and he cursed them with a dark skin but the people of Nephi he preserved and prospered so long as they obeyed his commandments, and they were not unskilful workmen having a knowledge of the arts together with the sciences. but they had among them that some secret society which had brought Jerusalem and the whole nation of the Jews to destruction; and after many years they become the more wicked than their accursed brethren, and God seeing that they would not repent of the evil he visited them with extinction. But I must stop here for I could write ever so long and not have told you one hundredth part of what I will tell you when we have the opportunity of seeing each other again. I would for you to remember that God himself has given to Joseph that he is able to translate and he is able to recover these things also in dreams therefore beware that you are not made. I hope dear Sister this will meet you in good health and spirits that your mind might feel disposed to dwell upon it for as God lives I have written the truth. Perhaps you will find a little history of my small concerns of interest respecting our family &c. This leaves us all in comfortable health except for Sophronia and Samuel who are at present afflicted with winter coughs.

William has gone to Conondago for the season to live with a partner and to try his hand at that trade.

We have sold our little place for 700 Dollars and of course must leave it in the spring but Mr. Smith has not yet fixed upon any point of the compass to take, we are under no hands to leave this place yet we have no inducements to stay as we live very much retired; our neighbors generally treat us with contempt ever since it has been raised about what morals that the Lord has worked I will give you a little sample a man who has always been kind and attentive to our family called on us last fall and was made welcome to our table and his horse to our barn with an urgent request as he said that before starting on our journey we would tell him all that we knew respecting the record to which request we readily assented which seemed to him to be a great favor.

from our table. He requested us not to call on him for said he
 I am afraid it will injure my business, so much for neighborliness.
 "Self love the spring of action moves the soul." — — — — —
 I have seen too much, quite too much of human nature to have
 any confidence in 7.8ths of professed friends, with these views and
 ten thousand discouragements it is not probable that we shall
 locate in these parts again: such dear sister are my reflections,
 but I do not want you to think that I have become so uncharitable
 for my mind naturally runs upon the goodness and mercy of God,
 and never before have I been the more content with my lot, having
 obtained a token of his grace. I am aware that these murmers are
 thought by many to be altogether incredible but I entreat you with
 all the earnestness and zeal of which I am capable that you believe,
 for God is mighty to do all things and he will answer the prayer of
 faith with understanding." I am pressed to close but remember
 me to Mr. Pierce and to your dear children Mr. Smith sends
 his love. please to write soon, it would be very gratifying to me
 personally to see you again. I must now bid the farewell —

then adieu Lucy Smith

1834

Mrs. Mary Pierce
Roxbury
Vt.



Canandaigua June 18th 1825

Dear Sir

— Exhibit E

My Father has shown me your letter informing him and me of your success in locating the mine as you suppose but we are of the opinion that since you cannot ascertain any particulars you should not dig more until you first discover if any valuables remain you know the treasure must be guarded by some clever spirit and if such is discovered so also is the treasure so do this take a hazel stick one yard long being new but well cleave it just in the middle and lay it asunder on the mine so that both inner parts of the stick may look one right against the other one inch distant and if there is treasure after a while you shall see them draw and join together again of themselves let me know how it is Since you were here I have almost decided to accept your offer and if you can make it convenient to come this way I shall be ready to accompany you if nothing happens more than I know of I am very respectfully

Joseph Smith Jr

— This Agreement made this seventeenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, namely Between Joseph Smith, Jun^r and Martin Harris both of Palmyra in the county of Wayne and State of New York of the one part—and Egbert Bratt Grandin of the same village, county and State of the other part—Whereas the said Joseph Smith, Jun^r has secured rights as author to a Book entitled "The Book of Mormon"—Now These Presents Witnesseth that the said Egbert Bratt Grandin for the consideration hereinafter contained, and at the request and on behalf of him the said Joseph Smith, Jun^r agrees to execute five thousand copies of the said Book in the manner and form following:—The volume to consist of six hundred octavo pages (more or less)—set and closely printed on new type and fine paper—The full edition to be bound in calf, completed and delivered on or before the first day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty—In Consideration whereof the said Joseph Smith, Jun^r and the said Martin Harris do jointly and severally agree to pay the said Egbert Bratt Grandin the sum of three thousand dollars in the manner and form following—on equal undivided third part of the said money is hand paid at and before the signing and sealing of these presents the receipt whereof he does hereby acknowledge—one third part to be paid in the month of November next and the remaining one third part when the aforesaid work is completed and delivered, with any money arising from the sale of the said Books before the said work is completed and delivered to be applied to the discharge of the sum of money so owing by the said Joseph Smith, Jun^r and the said Martin Harris—In Consideration whereof the said parties agree to faithfully execute, fulfill and perform the several articles herein contained, binding themselves in the penal sum of one thousand dollars damages—In Witness whereof the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first herein before mentioned Signed and Sealed in the presence of

Egbert Bratt Grandin

Joseph Smith Jr.
Martin Harris

Egbert Bratt Grandin

Carthage Jail. June 27th 1844
Major General Dunham

Dear Sir

You are
hereby ordered to resign the defence of
the City of Nauvoo to Captain Single
and proceed to this place without
delay with what ever numbers of the
Nauvoo Legion as may safely and
immediately come. Let this be done
quietly and orderly but with great
haste we are in the hands of
our sworn enemies.

Joseph Smith



Engraving by J. H. Green

THE BOOK OF
Common Prayer.
According to the Use of the
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
— ((in the)) —
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:
TOGETHER WITH
THE PSALTER.



NEW YORK.
PUBLISHED FOR THE BOOKSELLERS:
1830.

If this book should
wonder
and you this book
should find
please to kindly
remember
that what you hold
is mine

Richmond Mo

April 2/73

Bro Watter counsel.

Dear Sir.

Anyone who is without prejudice can easily learn the Book of Mormon is the word of God if he will earnestly seek the truth. Upon investigation it is evident that ~~the~~ Bible and the Book of Mormon perfectly agree; one is not in harmony.

People who believe in the Book of M. who do not understand this are spiritually blind.

In regards to my testimony in that Book as one of the three witnesses: I have always been true to what I have said. I

Know for myself that Angels
minister to men in their last
days. I have also seen the
golden plates and the interpreters

Yours Very Truly
David Whitmer

St. Albans August 12th 1883.

I have your request of an S. entirely what
we mean of the nature of private - Committee
of the Warren Dodge we have received - We have
personally seen experiments with Mr. Dodge for
about the last seven or so years & we believe
him to be honest & upright both in business
& in private society - We have never heard
any thing opposite to his opinion from any one
connected with Mr. Dodge - He is a man
of temperance & integrity, suitable to be
entrusted by the agents of the P. M. Society
yours respectfully -

Peter Wilmer

Daniel Wilmer

Hassers

Byron Green

by B. H. L. L. L.

Putneyville

Mr. Bittel Todd

Putneyville

10
Paid

SPANISH FORK CO-OP INSTITUTION

Will Pay To The Bearer

TEN CENTS

IN MERCHANDISE

J. 27/1

SPANISH FORK CO-OP INSTITUTION

Will Pay To The Bearer

FIVE CENTS

IN MERCHANDISE

J. 27/1

SPANISH FORK CO-OP INSTITUTION

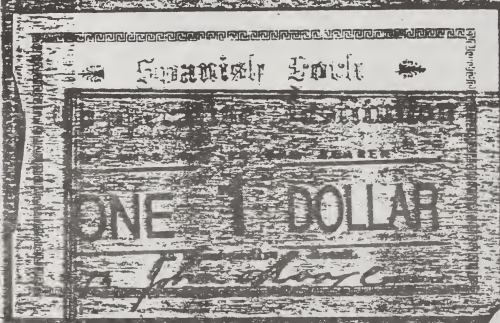
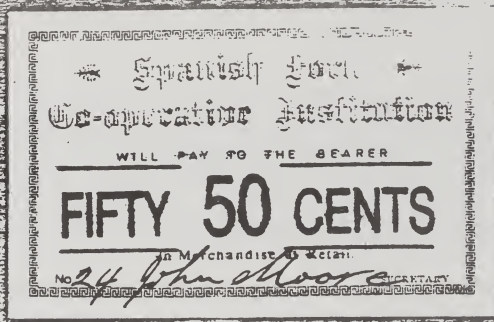
Will Pay To The Bearer

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

IN MERCHANDISE

J. 27/1

38 John Moore



SPANISH FORK CO-OP INSTITUTION

Will Pay To The Bearer

TEN CENTS

IN MERCHANDISE

J.M.

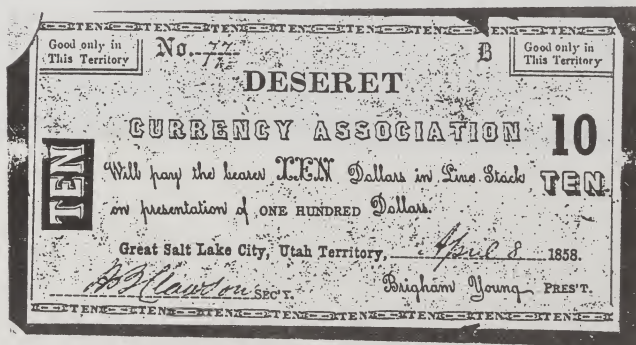
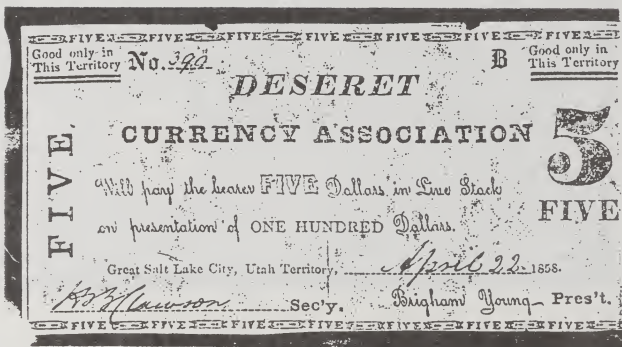
SPANISH FORK CO-OP INSTITUTION

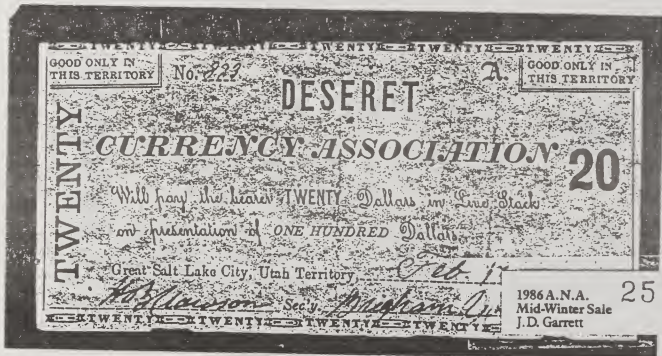
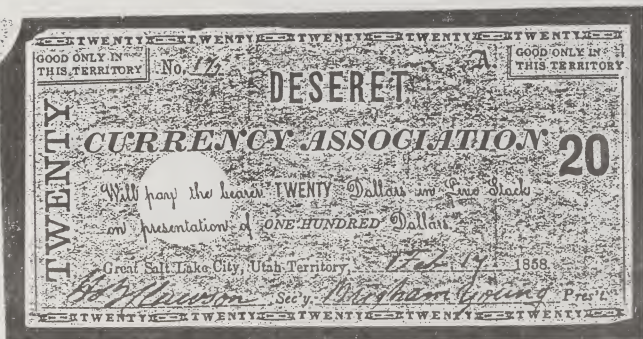
Will Pay To The Bearer

FIVE CENTS

IN MERCHANDISE

J.M.





~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~
 Good only in This Territory No. 137 DESERET 2 Good only in This Territory
FIFTY CURRENCY ASSOCIATION **50**
 Will pay the bearer **FIFTY** Dollars in Five Stacks **FIFTY**
 on presentation of ONE HUNDRED Dollars.
 Great Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, Feb 22 1858.
 Sec'y. Wm. A. Smith Pres't. Wm. A. Smith
~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~ ~~FIFTY~~

~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~
 Good only in This Territory No. 14 DESERET 2 Good only in This Territory
ONE HUNDRED CURRENCY ASSOCIATION **100** **ONE HUNDRED**
 Will pay the bearer One Hundred Dollars
 in Five Stacks on presentation.
 GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY, Feb 22 1858.
 Sec'y. Wm. A. Smith Pres't. Wm. A. Smith
~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~ ~~ONE HUNDRED~~

The Spirit of God like a fire is burning	120
The sun that declines in the far western d.c.	37
The towers of Zion soon shall rise	38
The time is nigh, that happy time	11
There's a feast of fat things for the d.c.	46
There's a power in the sun	49
There is a land the Lord will bless	44
This earth was once a garden place	29
Though in the outward church below	115
Thy mercy my God is the theme of my d.c.	97
To him that made the world	23
Through all this world below	24
'Twas on that dark and solemn night	77

W

What fair one is this, from the d.c.	7
What wondrous things we now behold	43
We're not ashamed to own our Lord	20
When Joseph his breth ren bebold	31
When earth was dress'd in beauty	81
When restless on my bed I lie	62
Why do we mourn for dying friends	118
Why should we start or fear to die	119

Y

Yes, my native land, I love thee	67
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\$300.00

P. O. City, March 24, April 24 1852

Six months after date we promise to pay
 Geo. H. Livingston & J. H. Spinkhead trading in the name and style
 of Livingston & Spinkhead, ~~Three Hundred Dollars~~ and no cents
 in gold — for value received, with interest thereon at the rate
 of 12 per centum per annum from the date ~~of~~ due
 — until paid as witness our hand and seal.

his
 James X Bridge Seal.
 Mark

Seal.
 Louis Vasquez

Palmyra Oct. 23rd 1830.

— Exhibit O

Dear Sir

Your letter of yesterday is received & I hasten to answer as fully as I can — Joseph Smith Jr first come to my room in the year 1824 in the summer of that year I contracted with his father to build a fence on my property in the case of that work I approach Joseph & ask how it is in half day you put up what requires your father & 2 brother a full day working together he says I have not been with out assistance but can not say more only you better firm out the next day I take the older Smith by the arm & he says Joseph can see any thing he wishes by looking at a stone Joseph often sees Spirits hear with great Kittles of conversation it was Spirits who brought up sick because Joseph made no attempt on their money a latter day I converse with spirits which let me count their money when I awake I have in my hand a dollar coin which I take for a sign Joseph describes what I see in every particular says the spirits are deceived so I throw back the dollar In the fall of the year 1827 I hear Joseph found a gold bible I take Joseph aside & he says it is true I found it 4 years ago with my stone but only just got it because of the enchantment the old spirit came to me 3 times in the same dream & says dig up the gold but when I take it up the next morning the spirit transfigured himself from a white salamander in the bottom of the hole & stung me 3 times & build the treasure & would not let me have it because I lay it down to cover over the hole when the spirit says do not lay it down Joseph says when can I have it the spirit says one year from to day if you obey me look to the stone after a few days he looks the spirit says bring your brother Joseph says he is dead shall I bring what remains but the spirit is gone Joseph goes to get the gold bible but the spirit says you did not bring your brother you can not have it look to the stone Joseph looks but can not see when to bring the spirit says I tricked you again look to the stone Joseph looks & sees his wife on the 24 day of Sept. 1827 they get the gold bible I give Joseph \$50 to reward him

warn to Sa Joseph says when you visit me I will give
you a sign he gives me some hieroglyphics I take them to
letitia Albany & New York in the last place L & Mitchell
gives me a introduction to Professor Brithon says he
they are short hand. Egyptian the same what was used
in ancient times being me the old book. & I will tour
ate says it is made of precious gold & is sealed from
from view says he I can not read a sealed book—
Joseph found some giant silver spectacles with the plates
puts them in a old hat & in the darkness reads the words
& in this way it is all translated & written down—about
the middle of June 1829 Joseph takes me together with
Oliver Cowdery & David Whitmer to have a view of the plates
so names are appended to the book of Mormon which
had printed with my own money—space & time both
prevent me from writing more at present if there is an
thing further you wish to inquire I shall attend to it

W W Phelps Esq

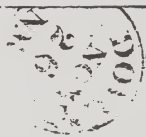
Yours Respectfully
Morton Hanson

6
W W Phelps Esq
Canandaigua N Y

Dover Nov. 24, 1857

We have waited and waited, long dear
 letter, for that letter, long since promised, but all to no
 purpose; for some time I felt as though you or Dr. W.
 must be sick but finally gave it up, ascribing the delay to
 the many cares which you must of course have. The last
 we received from you was a few lines to William, just
 before the examination — by the way did you not have
 any catalogues printed the last term? we have not seen
 any thing of them — but I suppose you are anxious
 to know how we get along, and all I can say is, that we
 move in the same old way — Father is well as usual, but
 feels the cold considerably — Elizabeth has gone home to stay
 some weeks, and I am chief-cook for the present season
 and after leading such a busy life through the summer —
 William and Joseph's family are all well, you may
 tell Dr. T. that Charles and Elizabeth have had the rumps
 which made them a little fretful, and Herman
 can almost go alone

Our Rochester friends we see occasionally — Emily B. —
 has been severely afflicted, by the very sudden death of
 Charles, her eldest child — a very promising little boy — he
 was not considered dangerously ill but one day — I hope
 you will let us know soon how your health is. — two or
 three times will be sufficient if time is wanting — I shall come
 again soon I think — *Betty Ross*



Mr. Wm. Abbott Dr.

Miss Isabelle Smith

Lancaster
New York

THE OATH OF A FREEMAN.

I·AB· being (by Gods providence) an Inhabitant, and Freeman, within the iurisdiction of this Common-wealth, doe freely acknowledge my selfe to bee subject to the government thereof; and therefore doe heere sweare, by the great & dreadfull name of the Everliving-God, that I will be true & faithfull to the same, & will accordingly yield assistance & support therunto, with my person & estate, as in equity I am bound: and will also truely indeavour to maintaine and preserve all the libertyes & priviledges thereof, submitting my selfe to the wholesome lawes, & ordres made & stablished by the same; and further, that I will not plot, nor practice any evill against it, nor consent to any that shall soe do, butt will timely discover, & reveall the same to lawefull authoritee now here stablished, for the speedie preventing thereof. Moreover, I doe solemnly binde my selfe, in the sight of God, that when I shalbe called, to give my voyce touching any such matter of this state, (in which freemen are to deale) I will give my vote & suffrage as I shall judge in myne owne conscience may best conduce & tend to the publick weale of the body, without respect of personnes, or favour of any man. Soe help mee God in the Lord Iesus Christ.

